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British journalist kidnapped

BEIRUT (AP) — A British journalist was kidnapped just south of Beirut on Monday. A United Nations official said that Alec Collett, 36, a Briton who was in Lebanon on a special writing assignment for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, for Palestine refugees (UNRWA) was kidnapped at about 2 p.m. (1200 GMT) near the Khalde junction south of the capital. The official said that Collett's car was stopped by gunmen, one of whom got into his car and ordered him to follow a green Volvo for a short distance. Then the gunmen transferred Collett to a yellow BMW and sped away. He did not know exactly how many gunmen were involved, the official said. He added that an Austrian national travelling with Collett was left behind by the abductors. The Austrian was identified by UNRWA officials in Vienna as Fritz Heindl, an UNRWA employee.

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Oman reiterates support for accord

MUSCAT (Petra) — Oman's Minister of Information Abdul Aziz Al Rawas Monday renewed his country's support of the Feb. 11 Jordanian-Palestinian accord and expressed hope it will achieve its aims for the benefit of the two people and the Arab Nation. He called for more Arab cooperation in information exchange. He was talking to Arab journalists visiting Oman to cover military manoeuvres by Omani armed forces. He said these manoeuvres were routine exercises and not aimed against anyone.

Kilbi denounces attacks on Alia

TUNIS (Petra) — Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Kilbi Monday denounced last Thursday's attacks on Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airlines, offices in Athens, Nicosia and Rome. In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Mr. Kilbi said that "such destructive acts result only in endangering innocent peoples' lives and the wasting of Arab capabilities and reputation worldwide." He said: "Our Islamic and Arab character is against this negative approach and calls on us to revert to constructive dialogue in resolving our differences."

France supports Mideast conference

KUWAIT (R) — A senior French official said Monday France supported the idea of an international Middle East peace conference under the auspices of the U.N. but that it was premature at this stage. The secretary-general of the Foreign Ministry's External Affairs Department, Francois Guitman, said after a three-day visit here peace in the Middle East was still a long way off. In a departure statement released through the Kuwait News Agency, Mr. Guitman said France and the European Community would not hesitate to support a peace drive in the Gulf conflict between Iran and Iraq if they were asked to help.

Colombo offers amnesty to rebels

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene Monday offered an amnesty to separatist guerrillas if they laid down their arms, state radio said. Mr. Jayewardene told a rally outside Colombo that "the government was willing to grant an amnesty to terrorists who are willing to lay down their arms and negotiate a settlement to the current ethnic conflict." Guerrillas are fighting to set up a separate state in Sri Lanka's northern and eastern provinces for the island's 2.5 million Tamils.

Luce to visit Gulf next week

LONDON (R) — British Foreign Office Minister Richard Luce will visit Kuwait and Qatar at the end of this month, the Foreign Office said Monday. A spokesman said Mr. Luce, who has responsibility for Middle East affairs, will have discussions with government ministers on regional issues including the Gulf war. Mr. Luce will visit Kuwait from March 31 to April 2 and Qatar from April 2-4.

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King, Queen begin state visit to Spain

MADRID (Agencies) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor Monday began a four-day state visit to Spain as guests of King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain.

King Hussein and Queen Noor, who are accompanied by Her Highness Princess Basma and her husband Walid Al Kurdi, Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, were received upon arrival at Madrid's Barajas airport by King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia.

The King and Queen were accorded a full state welcome ceremony at the airport, including a guard of honour and a 21-gun salute.

They were later guests of honour at a private dinner hosted by King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia.

Official talks between the Jordanian delegation headed by King Hussein and Spanish government leaders are expected to begin Tuesday and the King is expected to brief Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez on new moves in the Middle East for a just solution to the Palestinian problem and the Feb. 11 agreement between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

King Hussein will also address the Spanish parliament and receive an honorary degree from the University of Seville in southern

Spain. The King and Mr. Gonzalez held private talks Monday night during a visit the Spanish premier paid to the residence of the King. Mr. Gonzalez welcomed the King's visit to Spain and expressed hope that the visit would help strengthen relations between Jordan and Spain, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

In an interview with Spanish Television, conducted in Amman but broadcast on the eve of his visit to Spain, the King said the Jordan-PLO agreement offered the "last chance for peace in the Middle East."

The Jordan-PLO agreement reflects the genuine desire of the government of Jordan and the PLO for a peaceful solution to the Middle East conflict, the King said.

The agreement is aimed at implementing the principles of international law and United Nations resolutions, mainly Security Council resolutions which are binding, and the principle contained in the U.N. Charter which rules out the admissibility of the acquisition of other people's territory by war, the King said.

In reply to a question whether there were any differences between

the Jordan-PLO peace initiative and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's call for U.S. talks with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, prior to talks with Israel and an international conference, the King said: "There are no differences. I believe there have been differences in interpretations. President Mubarak and Egypt are fully supportive of the agreement reached between us and the Palestinians."

He described as "a very, very positive step" on the part of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to have signed the agreement with Jordan and said "this may be, as a matter of fact I would not like to be dubious about it, this is the last chance for peace."

"Unless this chance is taken there is no hope... the area will deteriorate towards fresh disasters that may overcome not only the people directly involved but world peace as such," he said.

The PLO's acceptance of all U.N. resolutions, including Security Council Resolution 242 and 338 and the resolution concerning the unilateral Israeli annexation of occupied Jerusalem, is "clear," the King said in reply to a question whether Mr. Arafat has accepted 242.

In reply to a question on the U.S. "reluctance" towards accepting Arab peace initiatives, the King said the continuing dialogue between Arab leaders and the U.S. administration would produce a clear American stand towards the Middle East conflict.

Iran, Iraq launch fresh round of attacks after 24-hour lull

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Tehran and Baghdad came under attack Monday as Iran and Iraq struck again at each other's cities after a brief pause in raids on civilian centres.

Iran said it fired a ground-launched missile at Baghdad — "the fifth" in 12 days — after Iraq attacked two tankers using its Kharg Island oil terminal in the northern Gulf Sunday.

Iraq said its warplanes raided Tehran and four other cities in retaliation for Iranian attacks on Baghdad and other Iraqi centres. Tehran Radio said Iraqi planes flew over 14 Iranian cities, but were driven off by anti-aircraft fire.

No casualties were reported in either Tehran or Baghdad, where residents heard a huge explosion overnight.

The attacks came less than 24 hours after Iran said it was halting strikes on civilian centres following a 24-hour pause in Iraqi raids. Tehran said it reserved the right to hit back if Baghdad attacked Iranian cities or shipping in the Gulf.

Fighting in the 54-month-old war reached new heights this month with World War II-type raids on cities and fierce ground battles in the marshlands of southern Iraq, where Baghdad claimed victory while Iran contended it had achieved its goals.

Gambian President Dawda Jawara, who heads an Islamic peace committee, said he was ready to go to Baghdad and Tehran when visits would be beneficial. The nine-nation committee would intensify efforts to end the war or at least "move the peace process," he said on his arrival Sunday night in the Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah.

Iran says Iraqi raids on more than 30 of its cities killed or wounded over 4,000 people.

Iran Air is the only airline to fly in and out of Tehran. Foreign airlines suspended flights after Iraq declared Iranian air space a war zone last week, and some also cancelled flights to Iraq after Iran threatened to attack Baghdad air-

port. The Iranian news agency IRNA said the Italian supertanker Valere and the Maltese-registered tanker Eastern Star attacked by Iraq Sunday were both hit by Exocet missiles.

Arab insurance and shipping experts meeting here Monday heard a plea by Bahrain's Commerce Minister Habib Kassim to keep shipping insurance rates stable so as not to harm trade.

The brief lull in attacks on civilian areas coincided with visits by the Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti foreign ministers to Algeria, which has offered to mediate in the war. Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati visited Algiers last week.

Iraq wants peace talks, but Iran says peace is impossible with the present Iraqi leadership.

An Asian diplomat, commenting on the resumed attacks on cities, said: "We thought we saw the light at the end of the tunnel, but it is again a question of something or someone breaking the circle."

Lebanon group claims Tripoli kidnap, demand release of detainee in France

BEIRUT (R) — A group calling itself the "Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Factions" said Monday it had kidnapped a French diplomat missing in Lebanon and said it could not guarantee his safety if France did not free a jailed member of the organisation.

In a hand-written message delivered to a foreign news agency in Beirut, the "factions" said they had arrested French Attaché Gilles Peyrolles, head of the French cultural centre in the northern port city of Tripoli.

The centre told Tripoli police Monday that Mr. Peyrolles had not been seen since Saturday.

The "factions" said they would "not be responsible for guaranteeing Peyrolles' safety" unless France released "our comrade Abdul Qader Saadi" within 48 hours of the message, hand-delivered at 3:15 p.m. (1315 GMT).

The group also warned the Italian government to free two other detainees named, named as Abdullah Al Mansouri and Josephine Abdo, or face similar action.

The "factions" have previously claimed responsibility for the kid-

ling in Paris of American Military Attaché Charles Ray on Jan. 18, 1982.

Mr. Peyrolles' disappearance, not immediately confirmed by the French embassy in Beirut, came three days after the abduction in Beirut of French Vice-Consul Marcel Fontaine, Attaché Marcel Carton and his daughter Danielle Perez, an embassy secretary.

A senior three-man mission headed by Marc Bonnefous of the French External Relations Ministry arrived in Beirut Sunday to investigate the latest kidnappings.

The "factions" said they had not wanted to act against France or Italy "because their conspiratorial role against our people is limited, considering their position towards world imperialism led by the United States and Zionism (Israel)."

However, if France and Italy failed to release the three group members named, "our future retaliation will be most severe and will bring catastrophe to residents of Paris and Rome," the message warned.

In addition, we will consider any Frenchman or Italian, where

ever he may be, a target for us," it said.

The Beirut newspaper An Nahar published a statement distributed by the same group in Tripoli Sunday which threatened France and Italy in similar terms.

Responsibility for the kidnappings of Mr. Fontaine, Mr. Carton and Ms. Perez was claimed by a caller who said he spoke for the shadowy "Islamic Jihad" (holy war) group, linked by U.S. officials to pro-Iranian Shi'ite Muslims of the Hezbollah (Party of God) movement.

That caller said the release of the French citizens depended on "the cancellation of a barter deal between France and Saudi Arabia under which Riyadh would get Mirage (fighter) planes for oil." Saudi Arabia has denied any such deal had been concluded.

Callers saying they were speaking on behalf of "Islamic Jihad" have also said the group was holding two Britons and an American journalist kidnapped in west Beirut earlier this month, as well as four other Americans and a Saudi Arabian diplomat seized over the past 15 months.



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, who began a four-day state visit to Spain Monday, are seen off by His Highness Prince Mohammad, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, His Highness Prince Faisal Al Hussein (left), members of the Royal family and senior officials (Petra photo)

Wazir: New Palestinian front 'designed to become Syrian tool'

By Lamin K. Andoni
 Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior official of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Monday condemned a newly-formed "Palestinian national salvation front" describing it as "a part of a Syrian scheme to form a substitute Palestinian organisation which would be a tool in the hands of Damascus."

Khalil Al Wazir, deputy military commander of the PLO, told the Jordan Times that the announcement earlier Monday in Damascus that six factions of the PLO have set up the new front was "the culmination of Syrian efforts to contain the PLO and create a new leadership of the organisation under the Syrian thumb."

In a press conference attended by senior officials of the six factions in Damascus, Khaled Al

Fahoum, former speaker of the Palestine National Council (PNC), announced the formation of the front which he said was aimed at the forced abrogation of the Feb. 11 agreement between Jordan and the PLO on joint action towards settling the Palestinian problem, and that the front would also escalate armed struggle inside the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza.

Mr. Fahoum, who was replaced as PNC speaker during the council's 17th session held in Amman last November, denied that the front was aimed at setting up an alternate organisation to replace the PLO. "The front aims at upholding the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and restoring the unity of the PLO," Mr. Fahoum told the press conference.

Mr. Fahoum, who has been closely associated with a four-faction

alliance opposed to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat which refuses to establish any contacts with the current leadership of the PLO, did not explain whether the front's intended efforts to reunify the PLO would include the leadership of Fateh, the mainstream commando organisation and Mr. Arafat's powerbase within the PLO.

Well-informed Palestinian sources in Amman told the Jordan Times Monday that the six factions which make the new front "seem to have lost hope in the Fateh leadership which they describe as right wing and have vowed to overthrow."

The sources however, were sceptical whether the new front would "compete with the PLO leadership," but said they expected it to "seek to rally popular support among the Palestinian

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Murphy may meet 'non-PLO' Palestinians

BOSTON, Massachusetts (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State George P. Shultz says an assistant secretary of state may meet with Palestinian leaders, who are not members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), in an attempt to initiate Middle East peace talks.

In an interview with the Boston Globe newspaper published Monday, Mr. Shultz said Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy may make that effort to meet non-PLO Palestinian and other Middle Eastern leaders during a trip next month.

Mr. Shultz said that despite President Ronald Reagan's recent comment that he does not see the United States becoming involved in a negotiating table with the Arabs and Israel, "history shows that the United States is a constructive partner and often a necessary partner to help things inch along."

Jordanian Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, who returned to Amman Sunday after talks with U.S. Vice-President George Bush, Mr. Shultz and other senior Reagan administration officials, said Sunday he stressed during his talks in Washington that PLO participation is critical to Middle East peace talks.

Mr. Masri told Jordan Television that in his talks with American officials, "I told them the time is right for action" and emphasised "the necessity of PLO participation" on any negotiating team.

Jordan has endorsed Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's call for a joint Jordanian-Palestinian team to hold talks with the United States, then with Israel, as a prelude to an international conference on Middle East peace.

United States officials have expressed cautious interest in the plan, but have insisted that they will not talk with members of the PLO until that body explicitly recognises Israel's right to exist.

U.S. should hold talks with PLO, Carter says, page 2

Falashas airlifted 'from Khartoum'

CAIRO (AP) — An airlift reportedly arranged by the United States to evacuate 900 Ethiopian Jews from Sudanese refugee camps involved at least two flights from Khartoum itself, Western relief sources said Monday.

One source said he watched two unmarked Boeing 707s carrying the refugees take off from the airport at the Sudanese capital in the post-midnight darkness of Friday morning.

The disclosure was the first independent confirmation of U.S. newspaper reports that the Jews, called Falashas, had been evacuated. The flights from Khartoum also indicated that the gov-

ernment of President Jaafar Numeiri, which so far has not commented on the operation, knew about it.

Mr. Numeiri's government denied involvement in a similar Falasha evacuation in Israel that was aborted last January after news of it was leaked.

Relief sources in Khartoum contacted Monday by telephone from Cairo said they did not know the latest refugees' destination.

In the first report of the evacuation last weekend, the Los Angeles Times said 10 U.S. C-130 Hercules transport planes flew the

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Soviet guard shot dead American officer in E. Germany, U.S. army says

HEIDELBERG, West Germany (Agencies) — A Soviet guard has shot and killed a U.S. army officer of the American military mission in East Germany, the U.S. army said Monday.

A brief statement from the army's European headquarters in Heidelberg said that officer learned of the shooting on Sunday. It did not identify the victim or give any other details.

"U.S. officials are discussing the seriousness of the incident with the Soviet authorities," the statement said. "Further information will be furnished as it becomes available."

"It is with deep regret that I must confirm the shooting and the death of an American army officer by a Soviet soldier in the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) on the afternoon of Sunday, March 24," West Berlin U.S. mission spokesman Thomas A. Homan said. "An urgent investigation is underway to determine the exact circumstances of this unfortunate incident."

The United States has filed a "serious protest" to the Soviets over the shooting, another U.S. diplomatic source in Bonn told the AP. The protest was filed Monday by the U.S. diplomatic mission in West Berlin, he said.

The Soviet embassy in East Berlin refused to comment.

Soviets say U.S. soldier was caught filming

WASHINGTON (R) — The Soviet embassy said Monday a U.S. army officer shot and killed in East Germany had been caught red-handed photographing Soviet military equipment. Embassy spokesman Vladimir Kulagin said that according to information received from Soviet military authorities, the officer had failed to heed a sentry's warning shot and had been killed.

He said the officer did not comply with the sentry's order and "after a warning shot, while attempting to escape, was killed." He said the U.S. driver was apprehended in a vehicle nearby.

In Washington, officials of the State and Defence departments declined to comment on the report.

Under the four powers agreements drawn up by the victorious allies at the end of World War II, the United States, Britain and France maintain military liaison missions in East Germany and the Soviet Union has an equivalent mission in West Germany.

The United States mission is

Egyptian minister arrives to sign transport agreement

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
 Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Egyptian Minister of Transport, Communications and Sea Transport Suleiman Moutawali arrived in Amman Monday on an official visit during which he is expected to sign the initial agreement for an overland route linking Egypt and Jordan and to follow up talks relevant to bilateral relations in the field of transport.

Mr. Moutawali told the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, upon arrival that the overland route was expected to be jointly inaugurated by His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on April 20. The route will be immediately operational after the inauguration ceremony, he added.

Mr. Moutawali said feasibility studies to operate the route were conducted during a visit by an Egyptian delegation to Jordan earlier this week.

The Egyptian minister said his visit, which is in response to an invitation from Jordan's Minister of Transport Farhi Obaid, is primarily aimed at the transport agreement, under which buses will operate between Aqaba and Egypt's port of Nuweib, and a maritime line will be opened between the two ports.

Mr. Obaid, upon receiving the Egyptian minister, expressed hope that the final draft of the overland route agreement will be completed within the next two days. He said a joint communiqué including various aspects of transport through this route will soon be issued. The overland route will link Jordan and the Arab Orient with Egypt, the Arab Maghreb region and Africa, and this comes as an achievement in the stride towards the strategic goals set by King Hussein and President Mubarak, Mr. Obaid said.

Mr. Obaid said that a meeting between Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat and his Egyptian counterpart Kamal Hassan Ali will precede the inauguration of the overland route.

Dr. Abdul Qader Lashin, who headed the Egyptian delegation which conducted the feasibility studies for the project, told the Jordan Times earlier this week that teams from both countries would form sub-committees to deal with maritime and overland transport as well as organise passport and customs clearance procedures in each country.

located at Fahrland, near Potsdam. Officers assigned to the post are entitled to patrol the country in specially marked vehicles.

At the time the missions were established, in the late 1940s, Communist East Germany was still in the Soviet-occupied zone.

The Soviets, in turn, set up military offices in three West German cities — Frankfurt, Bunde, and Baden-Baden — as liaisons with the U.S. British and French military, respectively.

Officers assigned to the military liaison missions in East Germany keep a close watch on both Soviet and East German military movements and there have been unconfirmed reports of serious incidents in the past.

According to military sources, the patrols are usually shadowed by Soviet army vehicles and there have been occasions when the Soviet crews have tried to drive them away from sensitive areas.

Western military officials often describe the role of the military missions as "licensed spying" and say it is part of their job to get as close as possible to Soviet military installations in order to gather information.

The officials say that the Soviet patrols in West Germany are also closely shadowed and that there have occasionally been minor incidents involving them as well.

U.S. should hold talks with PLO, Carter says

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter has said the Reagan administration should open talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to try to spur stalled Middle East peace efforts.

"There is no reason why (Secretary of State) George Shultz can't sit down with (PLO leader) Yasser Arafat if he wants to make a bold new stroke," Mr. Carter told CBS television in an interview.

Asked about Israeli objections to such a move, Mr. Carter said: "There has to be a willingness to face outcries and I don't see any way for any substantive progress to be made in the Middle East peace process without the Palestinians being intimately involved."

President Reagan told a news conference last week the United States would not deal with the PLO as long as it did not acknowledge Israel's right to exist and accept United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 that envisages the exchange of territory for peace.

In another of a series of interviews, coinciding with next week's publication of a Carter book on the Middle East, Mr. Carter said President Reagan had ignored the peace proposal put forward by Mr. Arafat and King Hussein.

"If Reagan is waiting for a better moment, a more transcendent proposal, I think he is wasting his time," the former president told Newsweek magazine.

Mr. Reagan and Mr. Shultz both have said that the United States might meet a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation — without the PLO — if that would lead to direct negotiations between the Arabs and Israel.

In his new book, *The Blood of Abraham: Insights into the Mid-*

die East, Mr. Carter says that peace progress has come to "a screeching halt" under Mr. Reagan.

Mr. Reagan has "abandoned" the human rights policies of the Carter administration and avoids taking responsibility for anything "unpleasant" or unsuccessful, Mr. Carter said.

"What will be the Reagan heritage is too early to say. I cannot think of a single international or diplomatic achievement that's been realised by Ronald Reagan," Mr. Carter said.

Under Mr. Reagan, the nation has lost its place as the "foremost proponent or user of negotiations and diplomacy," said Mr. Carter, interviewed at his Plains, Georgia, home.

"Our country's first reaction to a troubled area... is to try to inject American military forces or threats as our nation's policy," he said.

On prospects for peace in the Middle East, Mr. Carter said substantive progress cannot be made "without the Palestinians being intimately involved in the process."

On human rights, Mr. Carter said Mr. Reagan "has basically abandoned our nation's commitment to the human rights policy that we espoused."

Asked why, Mr. Carter said: "I think part of it was a natural adverse reaction to my administration's policies. One of his (Reagan's) first moves... was to send Mrs. (Jeane) Kirkpatrick to snuggle up to (president) Augusto Pinochet in Chile and to the military junta in Argentina who had been responsible for more than

10,000 deaths... and this was a clear signal, all over the world, that the previous human rights policy under my administration was being changed."

"The result has been that the world now sees our country as not being a champion of human rights, but as being dominant at best in the face of persecution," said Mr. Carter, who now teaches at Emory University.

During his administration, Mr. Carter said, "there was no doubt who was responsible... now there is a great doubt about who's responsible and Reagan has been extremely successful, more than (any) of his 39 predecessors, in not being responsible for anything that's unpleasant or completely, or not completely successful."

Mr. Carter said Reagan accomplished that by blaming others: "He's blamed me for his \$200-billion deficit. He's blamed me and (Gerald) Ford and (Richard) Nixon for his lack of understanding of the Lebanon crisis... he's blamed Congress for his withdrawal of the Marines (from) Lebanon under, you know, very damaging circumstances."

Mr. Carter also said Mr. Reagan "has never accepted responsibility for lack of progress in Middle East peace or a lack of progress on alleviating the problems of the poor."

"He's been remarkably successful in telling people everything is OK... it's OK for the Marines to be embarrassed and damaged in Lebanon. It's OK to have \$200-billion trade imbalances and so forth," Mr. Carter said.

The financial difficulties facing U.S. farmers, Mr. Carter said, "is the most evident first indication of Reagan's policies." The second, he said, will be "a continued deterioration in the banking and financial institutions of our country."



KING BIDS FAREWELL: His Majesty bid Monday before departing on a state visit to King Hussein bids farewell to members of the cabinet (Petra photo)

Egypt, Zaire seek joint action on drought

CAIRO (R) — The presidents of Egypt and Zaire called Monday for joint action by African nations to combat drought on their continent.

Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire discussed the drought problem in detail during two hours of private talks here Monday, Egypt's Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Maguid told reporters afterwards.

"I think the meetings were very fruitful, very useful and expressing an identity of views between Zaire and Egypt," he said.

Mr. Mubarak said at a banquet speech for Mr. Mobutu Sunday: "We share with you the belief of the need for joint African action to confront the urgent issues faced by African nations... namely the dire economic conditions and the drought that has taken thousands of lives."

Mr. Mobutu blamed wealthy nations for what he called the "frighting state of developing countries' economies."

"Our continent remains the first victim of natural disasters... and the fast-moving desertification in Africa has affected development efforts in many nations."

Egyptian officials expressed dissatisfaction over current international relief programmes for drought-stricken African states and said it was necessary to adopt a collective short and long-term policy on food sufficiency in the continent.

Mr. Mobutu, the fifth African leader to visit Egypt this year, discussed with Mr. Mubarak Middle East issues and Mr. Mubarak's efforts towards finding a peaceful solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict. Mr. Abdul Maguid said, Mr. Mubarak called for a dialogue between the United States and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation based on Feb. 11 accord between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Numeiri to visit U.S.

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — President Jaafar Numeiri is scheduled to arrive in Washington on Wednesday on a private visit, a presidency statement said Monday.

The statement, carried by the official Sudan News Agency, said that during his stay in the United States, Mr. Numeiri will meet President Ronald Reagan and other senior officials.

Mr. Numeiri also will undergo a "routine medical checkup" during the visit, the agency said, without giving further details.

Mr. Numeiri said conflicts in the Middle East, economic woes and the security of Sudan will top his agenda when he meets with U.S. President Ronald Reagan on March 27, according to Ahmad Gubrala, minister-counsellor at the Sudanese embassy, and White House officials.

Mr. Numeiri was to have visited Mr. Reagan earlier this month but the visit was postponed because it conflicted with Vice President George Bush's trip to Sudan and other African countries.

Washington froze nearly \$200 million in economic aid to Sudan last year because of problems with Sudan's economy. The cutoff brought widespread shortages of bread and gasoline.

Washington has agreed to provide \$45 million in military aid to Sudan, but Mr. Numeiri hopes to get more, according to an interview with him in Khartoum by Newsweek magazine.

Mr. Numeiri told Newsweek he

considers the war in Lebanon and the Iran-Iraq war the most important issues to discuss with Mr. Reagan because, "we are afraid that (those conflicts) will become a global war."

In addition, Mr. Numeiri told Newsweek he is concerned about regional security because "Ethiopians and the Libyans are taking some of the Sudanese from the southern part of Sudan, training them in special camps and then sending them back with weapons for terrorism inside Sudan."

Both the Sudanese embassy official and White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan declined comment Sunday on reports that Sudan allowed U.S. pilots to fly between 700 and 800 Ethiopian Jews out of Sudan to Israel.

Interviewed on the American television network NBC, Mr. Regan said, "I am not going to comment on that case. I think in cases where we make humanitarian efforts to rescue various types of people, I think instead of reporters and senior administration officials discussing it in public, it's best left to the historians. You can blow these things very easily. They are very sensitive and passions can be aroused by knowledge or no knowledge of these things."

A previous Israeli airlift of the Ethiopian Jews, who emigrated to Sudan because of famine and warfare in their own country, was halted in January after it was publicly disclosed.

Red Cross, Red Crescent societies begin talks today

TUNIS (Petra) — Arab Red Cross and Red Crescent societies opened their 16th meeting in Tunis Monday.

On the agenda is the subject of Iran's inhuman treatment for Iraqi prisoners of war in the light of reports by the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the Iraqi Red Crescent Society.

Also to be discussed by the delegates over the coming four days are resolutions and recommendations passed in the 15th meeting and the 1984/85 financial report as well as an estimated budget for 1985/86 in addition to a report on these societies' activities by the secretary general of their association.

Arafat calls on OIC to discuss Gulf war

TUNIS (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat has called on an Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) peace committee mandated to seek a solution to the Iran-Iraq war to meet urgently to discuss the worsening situation, the Palestinian News Agency Wafa reported.

Mr. Arafat's appeal was made in a message handed to Gambian President Dawda Jawara, who heads the committee of which Mr. Arafat is also a member, in London at the weekend.

Mr. Jawara was visiting the PLO representative in London, Faisal Awaida.

Mr. Jawara paid tribute to Mr. Arafat's efforts to try to end the 54-month-old Gulf war, Wafa said.

Mr. Jawara said the OIC peace committee will intensify its efforts to end the 54-month-old Iran-Iraq war.

The official Saudi Press Agency quoted him as saying on arrival in Jeddah Sunday night that the Gulf war situation was "very dangerous."

He said his nine-nations committee "will intensify its efforts to find a solution, or at least move the peace process if a comprehensive solution proves to be difficult."

Mr. Jawara said he was ready to go to Baghdad and Tehran when

he found visits would be beneficial.

Meanwhile in the Gulf the Italian supertanker *Volere* was heading Monday for Dubai for assessment of damage to two tanks after being hit in an Iraqi air strike in the northern Gulf Sunday, shipping sources said.

They said the 126,469-ton vessel, fully laden with Iranian crude oil for South Korea, was damaged in its numbers one and two tanks when hit by an air-to-ship missile south of Iran's main Kharg Island oil terminal.

There was no engine-room damage, however, and it was due at Dubai late Monday under its own power.

The owners in Naples, Eracleide SPA, said there were no casualties among the 30 crewmembers. The owners said there was no fire aboard, but shipping sources said a small blaze had been extinguished with the help of an Iranian tug.

The sources said there had also been some oil spillage.

A second tanker hit Sunday by Iraqi planes, the 30,380-ton Maltese vessel *Eastern Star*, was reported by shipping sources to be taking on water and under tow.

The Iranian News Agency IRNA, which said both vessels were hit by Exocet missiles, said the tanker suffered extensive engine-room damage while heading for Kharg Island.

Israel wants Gulf war to continue

By Jeffrey Heller

TEL AVIV — Israel is gaining from the Gulf war and hopes Iraq and Iran remain locked in battle indefinitely, Israeli experts say.

"The basic interest that Israel has had in the war has not changed since the outbreak of fighting, which was that neither side gain a decisive victory," says Mark Heller of Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies.

A government analyst, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters it would be best for Israel if Iran and Iraq, which intensified ground and air fighting this month, continued the 53-month-old war.

She said a victory by Iran, led by Revolutionary Shi'ite Muslim clergy since 1979, could boost Islamic militancy and further radicalise Shi'ite Muslims in Lebanon who have recently stepped up a resistance war against Israeli forces.

Israel, which outstrips Iran in military hardware, could turn its war machine against Israel if it defeated Iran, she said. According to a Jaffee Centre study, Baghdad added 32 combat planes and 700 tanks to its arsenal last year.

For years, Israel has viewed Iraq as one of the most dangerous Arab "confrontation states". Israeli experts say more than four years of war have inflicted huge economic damage and possibly blunted the ambitions of Iraq.

At one stage Israel sold military spare parts to Iran to help it engage the Iraqis. Shipments stopped at least two years ago when Iran appeared to be winning the war, informed sources said.

Despite this month's intensified fighting, Mr. Heller does not believe the war is about to end. "Nobody is about to crush the other side militarily," he says.

But this week's surprise meeting held in Baghdad with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and King Hussein, who reaffirmed their backing for Iraq, appeared to have wider implications for Israel.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres said the development could benefit Israel by helping establish a moderate Arab bloc to counterbalance the radically anti-Israeli policies of Libya and Syria, which support Iran and the Gulf war.

"I hope... (the bloc) will basically adopt Egypt's policies in the direction of peace," he said.

Mr. Heller says there are indications of growing Iraqi involvement in a Cairo-Amman-Baghdad axis that could eventually advance the Middle East peace process.

He also says President Hussein has modified his anti-Israeli rhetoric. "He has gone on the record now, for well over a year, as waiving his previous objections to any sort of political settlement with Israel."

Egypt protests journalists' detention

CAIRO (AP) — The Press Syndicate, Egypt's journalists' union, has protested the detention by police of two reporters among 18 people held in connection with a violent anti-Israeli demonstration at the Cairo International Trade Fair last week.

In a statement carried by Cairo newspapers Monday, the syndicate council said the reporters, who work for opposition party newspapers, were at the demonstration for the legitimate purpose of covering it.

The reporters were identified as Mohammad Abdul Kaddous of the weekly newspaper *Al Wafd*, published by the *Al Wafd* Party, and Magdi Ahmad Hassanein of the weekly *Al Shaab*, organ of the Socialist Labour Party. Abdul Kaddous also is a member of the syndicate council.

About 50 demonstrators marched through the fairground in a north eastern Cairo suburb last Friday protesting Israeli participation in the trade fair. They

chanted anti-Israeli and anti-American slogans, burned replicas of the two nations' flags, attacked security men with fists and stones and uprooted a pole flying the Israeli flag.

State Security prosecutor Ragab Al Arabi told the Associated Press on Sunday that the 18 detainees were charged with illegal assembly, resisting authority, criminal vandalism, interfering with public transport and illegal possession of leaflets.

The syndicate council statement said it viewed "with deep concern" the detention of the two reporters "while they performed their journalistic duty in covering the protests in front of the Israeli pavilion" at the fair.

While rejecting recourse to violence, the statement said, the council "upholds citizens' right to legitimate, peaceful expression of anger at Israel's participation in the Cairo International Trade Fair at a time when it (Israel) is continuing its daily criminal practices

against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples and its aggressive expansionist policy against Arab peoples."

This was a reference to Israel's search-and-arrest security operations in South Lebanon and its occupation since 1967 of the West Bank of the Jordan River and Gaza.

UAE ship sinks in Gulf

DUBAI (R) — The 452-ton general cargo ship *Omeid*, registered in the United Arab Emirates, sank Sunday near the Strait of Hormuz after developing engine trouble but its Iranian crew were safe, shipping sources said Monday.

The ship, owned by Ali Ahmad Abdulla and chartered by the Buhul Trading Company of Dubai, developed engine trouble soon after it left Dubai for Iran with a cargo of textiles last Wednesday, the sources said.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	BBC WORLD SERVICE
17:00 Main Channel	06:00 News
17:10 Koran	06:30 The Classical
17:15 Cartoons	06:45 Financial News
17:20 Children's programmes	06:50 World News
17:30 News	07:00 World News
17:40 Local Programme	07:10 World News
17:50 Programme Review	07:20 World News
18:00 News Programme	07:30 World News
18:10 News in Arabic	07:40 World News
18:20 News in Arabic	07:50 World News
18:30 News in Arabic	08:00 World News
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23:30 News in Arabic	13:00 World News
23:40 News in Arabic	13:10 World News
23:50 News in Arabic	13:20 World News
24:00 News in Arabic	13:30 World News

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	EXHIBITIONS	CONCERT	FEATURE FILM	VIDEO	CULTURAL CENTRES	SERVICE CLUBS	CHURCHES	MUSEUMS
Paintings exhibition by Adnan Helo at Ali Art Gallery.	An Italian art exhibition of oriental paintings at the Royal Cultural Centre.	Spanish and classical music by Spanish guitarist Juan Manuel Cortes at 8:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.	"Othello" at 7:00 p.m. at the British Council.	Art video film at 4:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.	Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267 American Centre Tel. 44371 British Council Tel. 36147-8 French Cultural Centre Tel. 37009 Goethe Institute Tel. 41993 Soviet Cultural Centre Tel. 44203 Spanish Cultural Centre Tel. 24049 Turkish Cultural Centre Tel. 39777 Haya Arts Centre Tel. 655195 Hussein Youth City Tel. 667181 Y.W.C.A. Tel. 41793 Y.W.M.C.A. Tel. 664251 Amman Municipal Library Tel. 36111 University of Jordan Library Tel. 843355	Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m. Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m. Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m. Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2:00 p.m. Renaissance Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Renaissance Hotel, 2:00 p.m. Renaissance Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Renaissance Hotel, 2:00 p.m. Renaissance Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Renaissance Hotel, 2:00 p.m.	St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Tel. 24590 Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Tel. 37440 St. Basil Church (Roman Catholic) Tel. 667181 Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Tel. 23541 Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Tel. 25383 Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331 Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 771331 St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Tel. 771331 Armenian Apostolic Church (Inter-denominational) Tel. 771331 Baptist School in Shamsiye, 816534.	Feldberg Museum. Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also models from Judea and Jerusalem (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760. Jordan Archaeological Museum. Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Tel. 667181 (Cultural H.H.). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays) 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Closed Tuesdays). Jordan National Gallery. Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (088) 53250, which should always be verified.

ARRIVALS:

07:30	Aqaba (RJ)
07:30	Dubai (RJ)
07:45	Kuwait (RJ)
08:45	Jeddah (RJ)
09:45	Cairo (RJ)
09:55	Dhahran (RJ)
09:55	Dubai, Bahrain (RJ)
10:00	Muscat, Doha (RJ)
10:20	Beirut (RJ)
10:20	Cairo (MS)
10:25	Dhahran, Riyadh (SV)
10:30	Singapore, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:50	Larnaca, Damascus (RJ)
12:15	Doha (GF)
13:50	Moscow (SU)
14:40	Kuwait (KU)
16:15	Baghdad (IA)
17:30	New York, Vienna (RJ)
18:00	Amsterdam, Istanbul (KLM)
18:30	Cairo (RJ)
18:45	Rome, Damascus (AZ)
19:45	Tripoli (RJ)
20:15	Zurich, Larnaca (SR)
20:20	Athens (AO)
20:50	Frankfurt, Dusseldorf (LH)
01:10	Baghdad (RJ)

DEPARTURES:

07:00	Beirut (RJ)
07:15	Aqaba (RJ)
11:15	Tripoli (RJ)
11:20	Cairo (MS)
11:45	Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
12:00	Paris, London (RJ)
12:15	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:15	Riyadh, Dhahran (SV)
12:45	Istanbul, Bucharest (RJ)
12:20	Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)
13:30	Rome (RJ)
13:40	Bahrain (GF)
14:30	Cairo (RJ)
14:50	Moscow (SU)
15:40	Kuwait (KU)
17:15	Baghdad (IA)
17:30	Kuwait (RJ)
20:30	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
20:45	Cairo (RJ)
21:30	Baghdad (RJ)
22:00	Baghdad (RJ)

MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port:

- Alal Khartoum
- Alphaheoric
- Egnel Toun
- Lanka Mahapala
- Andacia
- Antares
- Singapore Eagle
- Blue Nile
- El Arish
- Kalfonovski

Amman Kavar and Soma Company, Tel. 23234 (six lines) at your service.

MONEY EXCHANGE

	Local solitary rates in JLD
Belgian franc	63.2/ 63.7
Dutch guilder	112.5/ 113.4
European gold	305.3/ 308.6
French franc	41.5/ 41.8
Irish dlr	395.3/ 408.3
Italian lire (for 100)	19.3/ 20.2
Japanese yen (for 100)	160/ 161.3
Kuwaiti dinar	1357.5/ 1366.6
Lebanese lira	22.4/ 22.4
Omani rial	3490/ 1190
Syrian piast	11.9/ 113.6
Tunisi riyal	114.1/ 114.9
Swedish crown	44.5/ 44.9
Swiss franc	150.2/ 151.4
Syrian lire	35.5/ 36.4
UAE dirham	182.2/ 112.6
U.S. sterling pound	480.2/ 484
U.S. dollar	409/ 411.5
W. German mark	127.1/ 128.1

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

An increase in temperature is expected with light and variable winds. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and calm sea.

Low-light temperature in deg. C.

Amman	7/19
Aqaba	14/29
Damascus	7/20
Jordan Valley	12/28

NEWS IN BRIEF

Crown Prince congratulates Greece

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan the Regent Monday sent a cable of good wishes to Acting Greek President Yannis Alevras on the Independence Anniversary of Greece. In the cable Crown Prince Hassan wished the acting president health and success and the Greek people further prosperity and progress.

Decree approves envoy's appointment

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Monday endorsing a cabinet decision which appointed Mr. Abdullah Salah as Jordan's non-resident minister plenipotentiary to Cuba. Mr. Salah also serves as Jordan's ambassador to the United Nations.

Hikmat receives Soviet delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities and Acting Information Minister Taher Hikmat Monday received a visiting Soviet delegation led by Vladimir Sulemanov, a member of the Supreme Soviet (Parliament). During the meeting, bilateral cultural relations and ways of strengthening them in addition to Jordanian-Soviet ties in general were discussed.

Credit figures register increase

AMMAN (Petra) — Credit facilities extended by commercial banks and the Housing Bank during 1984 showed an increase of JD 153,903,000 over 1983. Credit facilities extended to all sectors amounted to JD 1,184,825,000 in 1984 compared to JD 1,030,922,000 in 1983.

JPMC cancels loan account

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) has cancelled the remaining JD 6.5 million account of a JD 10 million loan it had previously obtained from a local banking consortium, according to company source.

Daoudieh opens preaching camp

NORTH SHOUNA, Jordan Valley (Petra) — Minister of Aqaf and Islamic Affairs Abed Khalaf Daoudieh Monday opened in Al Qulet in North Shouna the first preaching and guidance camp organised by the ministry's Department of Preaching and Guidance. Mr. Daoudieh called on preachers and guides to follow the example of the Prophet Mohammad and his companions who bore hardships to spread the Islamic cause. Taking part in the week-long camp are 30 preachers and guides. Attending the opening were Irbid Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin, the ministry's under-secretary, Dr. Abdul Salam Al Abhadi, Lower House of Parliament member Dr. Ahmad Al Kofahi, northern Jordan Valley district governor and a number of officials.

Department closes four video shops

AMMAN (Petra) — The Press and Publications Department has ordered the closure of four video tape centres in Jordan and the withdrawal of their licences. The decision was taken because the four stores were found to be dealing with immoral film material.

Switzerland to extend JD 8m loan to Jordan, Anani says

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Switzerland will shortly sign a credit agreement under which Switzerland will grant Jordan a JD 8 million loan on easy terms, according to Minister of Industry and Trade Jawad Al Anani who returned to Amman Sunday evening after a visit to Geneva during which he met with a number of European businessmen representing advanced industry in nine European countries.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Dr. Anani said he had a meeting in Geneva

with the federal president who asked him to convey his greetings to His Majesty King Hussein. The meeting also dealt with bilateral relations and the latest developments in the Middle East, Dr. Anani added.

Work commences on Irbid sewerage network project

IRBID (Petra) — Excavation work for the Irbid sewerage project started Monday after the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) awarded the first tender in the project to a local company, according to Irbid Mayor Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat.

Dr. Tubeishat pointed out that the city has been divided into five areas and that the rest of the project tenders will be awarded within a few days in order that work throughout the city will commence in the next two months.

The project, expected to be completed by May 1986, will solve the chronic sewerage problem which sometimes caused water and environmental pollution in the city, Dr. Tubeishat added.

Playing the infidelity game with style

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Theatre lovers in Amman will have the chance to see the theatrical production "How the Other Half Loves" two days before it is scheduled to open in London's heart of theatre — the West End.

Derek Nimmo, a prominent British producer, whose name is linked to many dinner theatre productions, told reporters during a press conference at the Intercontinental Hotel in Amman Monday that Thursday's show will be the fourth dinner theatre production to be presented at the hotel.

Mr. Nimmo, who last year finished a successful Middle East and Far Eastern tour with the comedy "There is a Girl in My Soup", and in 1983 with "A Friend Indeed", returns to the touring circuit to produce and cast "How the Other Half Loves".

Director of the play, Jan Budin commented on the play saying that "How the Other Half Loves", written by Alan Ayckbourn, tackles the theme of marital infidelity, "a game to be played as brilliantly as possible." She added that the play promises one

laughter-packed incident after another.

As for those who do not have enough time to eat and watch a theatre play in the same evening, the Intercontinental Hotel's food and beverage manager, Mr. Dieter Lehmann, said that the hotel will offer a three course menu of varied gourmet food.

Mr. Nimmo said that British Airways in cooperation with the hotel's playhouse will offer a promising play that has previously run at the Lyric theatre in London for two years, attracting a couple of thousand at the West End theatre. He added that it has also played all over the world and that it was translated into 24 languages.

"How the Other Half Loves" is Jan Budin's fourth production for the British Airways playhouse. The other plays Jan has directed were "Say Who You Are", "A Friend Indeed" and most recently "There Goes the Bride".

The cast includes Derek Nimmo, Barbara Murray, Simon Ward, Joanna Dunning, Christopher Beeny and Helen Cotterill.

Alan Miller Bunford, the designer of the play has designed and painted many productions at home and abroad.



Minister of Labour and Social Development Tayseer Abdul Jaber (centre left) and Minister of Youth Hani Khasawneh (in front of flag) Monday attend the opening of a seminar on graduate unemployment (Petra photo)

Regent meets Arab, British presidents of chartered accountant associations

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan the Regent Monday received at his office the president of the Certified Arab Accountants Association, Mr. Talal Abu Ghazaleh, and the president of the British Chartered Association of Certified Accountants, Sir Frederick Blesdale.

The two men briefed Prince Hassan on the technical agreement signed by the two associations which aims to establish training and evaluation programmes to qualify certified Arab accountants.

Mr. Abu Ghazaleh thanked His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan for the Royal Decree which approves the right for Mr. Ghazaleh to bear the French "Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur" medal bestowed on him by French President Francois Mitterrand for his role in promoting Arab-French economic relations.

Mr. Abu Ghazaleh and Sir Frederick were also received by Minister of Finance Hatma Odeh, Minister of Industry and Trade Jawad Al Anani and Yarmouk University President Adnan Badran and they briefed the officials on the terms of the agreement.

Dr. Badran held a working luncheon banquet for the two guests attended by officials from the government and both Yarmouk and Jordan universities.

Both Mr. Abu Ghazaleh and Sir Frederick had held similar talks in Cairo and left for Oman on Monday to continue their talks.

National centre offers advice to farmers

AMMAN (Petra) — A national research centre, recently established in the Jordan Valley town of Deir Alla, has started to offer services to farmers in the region.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture said that the centre undertakes scientific research in agricultural techniques and production and offers guidance to farmers in the Jordan Valley on ways to increase and improve their crop production.

The centre, which was established with assistance from the United States Agency for International Development

(USAID), aims through research work to solve agricultural problems facing producers of fruit and vegetables, to help improve ways for the protection of soil and crops from pests and to select the best seeds which could ensure a more abundant harvest, the spokesman said.

He said that the results of the studies will be offered to farmers in the Jordan Valley and other parts of the country.

The centre at Deir Alla was established in implementation of an agreement signed by the Ministry of Agriculture and USAID in 1982 at a cost of JD 4 million to be

spread over five years.

Under the agreement, USAID will provide JD 1.8 million and the Jordanian government will cover the rest of the cost.

The United States will provide the centre with experts and laboratory equipment as well as means of transport and agricultural implements and will also offer training courses for the local staff, the spokesman explained.

Under the agreement the Ministry of Agriculture pays the salaries of staff, provides offices and the land for research stations and agricultural equipment, he added.

Dr. Khairi said, "I believe that Jordan's cultural method is very similar to the Japanese one and that we are facing the same circumstances which faced Japan in the past when they started building their independent cultural development."

As in Japan, Dr. Khairi explained, the Arab World is facing the same development process where the government is supporting and supervising all development activities. Dr. Khairi asked the participants to "admirably" imported Western technology but to refuse imported Western values and rather to adhere to the values and traditions of the Kingdom and the Arab World.

Dr. Moussa Abu Housa discussed in his paper the social, economic and cultural status that Jordan has witnessed throughout its modern history. In his presentation, Dr. Abu Housa highlighted the role of different institutions and sectors in Jordan and how they have contributed to the development process of Jordan by

Imaginative comedy

Mr. Nimmo said that Alan Ayckbourn is one of the most prolific writers of imaginative comedy plays. His first play to reach the West End, "Relatively Speaking", was hailed by theatre critics who described him as the "brightest comedy talent to arrive on London scene for years." "How the Other Half Loves" was Ayckbourn's second smash-hit play and was eagerly awaited by all critics. Mr. Ayckbourn has also written "Table Manners", "Together", "Round and Round the Garden", "The Norman Conquests", and "Absurd Person Singular".

Mr. Nimmo hopes that the play will attract 200 people each night and Mr. Lehmann said that half of the tickets have been sold which "reflects a good sign." The tickets are sold for JD 15 each, include open cocktails and classical music plus a gourmet dinner before the show opens.

The entire cast is on a tour which includes nine countries in their Middle East and Far Eastern tour. Their next destination is Cairo. The show will be on from March 28-31 at Al Badiyah Room.

Labour minister opens seminar on business women

Abdul Jaber stresses need to solve pressing problem of graduate unemployment

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — "Jordan is currently facing the dilemma of an increase in university and community colleges graduates and a decrease in new job openings," Minister of Labour and Social Development Tayseer Abdul Jaber said Monday and he stressed the urgent need to find a solution to this problem.

Dr. Abdul Jaber was speaking at the opening of a two-day seminar on "University and Community College Graduates: The Business Women of Tomorrow: 'Where To?'" which is organised by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development in cooperation with the Business and Professional Women's Club Amman (BPWC). The minister added that women are the most likely to be affected due to the few job openings, especially that since the number of women graduates is increasing. He said that women should be working in other sectors, not only as teachers or as workers in government ministries and departments.

He went on to say that an immediate and comprehensive solution should be found and that it should be linked with the socio-economic development plans to be implemented in the future.

Dr. Abdul Jaber explained that Jordan is witnessing a new stage of change in the needs of labour market and pointed out that in the late 1970's there was an evident lack in different areas of specialisation, whereas in the beginning of the 1980's, there was a vast need of different academic specialisations which at the same

city of the labour market. She added that the development plans should develop the concept of social work which should take into consideration social planning and women's role in the socio-economic process.

Mrs. Jardaneh expressed hope that this seminar would solve the problem of university and community college graduates who have completed their studies but who are still looking for work.

During the two-day seminar, research and working papers on the population status in Jordan, the status of women's rehabilitation, job opportunities and graduates, vis-a-vis the status of working women, and women graduates and their chances of employment will be discussed.

The seminar will also tackle the relationship between education and agricultural development, the relationship between education and industrial developments, the effect of the Higher Education Council on planning for manpower and the needs of the development plans, the flexibility of university specialisations in the community colleges in response to the social needs of educated people, and the relationship between education and development plans.

Attending the seminar are Minister of Youth Hani Al Khasawneh, Minister of Planning Abdullah Nsour, Minister of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities and Acting Information Minister Taher Hikmat, Higher Education Council President Abdullah Al Zubi and senior high ranking governmental officials and decision makers in Jordan.

Santoshi asks labour minister to attend Delhi conference

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Minister of Labour and Social Development Tayseer Abdul Jaber Monday received an invitation to attend a conference, which will be held in Delhi, India, next month which will discuss women's roles in development.

The invitation was delivered by Indian Ambassador to Jordan Pyare Lal Santoshi who also discussed Indo-Jordanian relations regarding manpower and labour employment with the minister.

The conference, which is due to convene on April 10 and 11 will be patronised by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and will focus on the role of women in the development of non-aligned countries. Mr. Santoshi told the Jordan Times following the meeting.

He said that this ministerial-level conference was agreed upon during the seventh o-o-aligned summit conference in March 1983.

One aspect of convening the Delhi conference is to prepare for an international conference on the same issue which is expected to convene in Nairobi in September 1985, he said.

As for bilateral labour relations between Jordan and India, Mr. Santoshi said that the subject is still in its initial stages. "We have exchanged drafts regarding drawing up a formula for a comprehensive memorandum to organise manpower exchange between the two countries, but an official agreement has not yet been signed," Mr. Santoshi explained.

Austrian public security chief concludes visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of the Austrian Public Security Department Robert Danzinger left Amman Monday ending a six-day visit to Jordan during which he met with senior officials and visited a number of public security institutes.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Mr. Danzinger expressed pleasure for the visit to Jordan, especially for the great progress he saw in all fields thanks to the wise leadership of Jordan.

Mr. Danzinger pointed out that the visit and his talks with Public Security Department (PSD) officials resulted in bolstering cooperation and relations between public security departments in the two countries.

HOTEL JORDAN INTER-CONTINENTAL
AND swissair present the

SWISS FOOD FESTIVAL

at the Crown Rotisserie
28th MARCH to 2nd APRIL 1985

GALA OPENING AT AL MUKHTAR BALLROOM
Wednesday 27th March

HOTEL JORDAN INTER-CONTINENTAL
AND swissair present the

SWISS FOOD FESTIVAL

Daniela & Mandy Schneebeli und sini Musikante

at the Crown Rotisserie
28th MARCH to 2nd APRIL 1985

GALA OPENING AT AL MUKHTAR BALLROOM
Wednesday 27th March

Tickets at JD 12,500
For reservation call 41361, ext. 2141



Plea for realism

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV'S quick accession to the top Soviet position has intrigued the whole world, but mostly American politicians. Most observers in the U.S. seem to agree that the new Kremlin leader is intelligent, tough and shrewd and a man who has informed opinions on domestic, foreign and defence policy issues. Some people tend to think he may turn out to be a "liberal", or at least less conservative than his predecessors. Others, however, warn against expecting any change in Soviet policy under him and as long as the Communist Party, in this form or the other, is in power.

Because the U.S., under its unique system of government, looks at the USSR as its only real competitor, American politicians and political students, as well as many of their Western allies, feel it necessary to know enough — preferably as much as can be known — about the man with whom they are going to deal over much of their world interests.

In other parts of the world, people sit and watch — their role reduced to almost nothing. They talk, but the superpowers hardly listen. They protest, but to no avail. And in so much agony over which superpower wins this or that round, many of us find it inescapable to simply sit back and watch the game from a distance. Remember, if you cannot beat them join them. But we still make it a point not to throw our lot with either power.

This situation has been prevalent for so many years now, but it is getting to be more and more difficult to live by. Maybe Mr. Gorbachev's advent will change things. Maybe President Reagan's reelection will do it. And maybe the two working together can give us more hope for the future.

The change nevertheless should give all of us, not only in the Third World but also in Washington and Moscow, more room for thought about where the whole world is heading and whether realism can in the end replace fantasy and fanaticism, especially at a time when no less than the human civilisation is at stake.

It is never healthy to live on the brink of disaster for so long. It is time that the two superpowers gave us a respite from their rivalries and worked towards a world less full of tension.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Recruiting future leaders

IN A speech at Mu'ta University, Prince Hassan stressed the fact that the newly established institution is designed to create new military commanders for the country's security and armed forces.

Prince Hassan also referred to leaders of Islam and the founders of this steadfast country and the principles and ideals they had believed in. He said developing education is in line with the policies of the founders of the Kingdom and the leader of the Great Arab Revolt.

New commanders are needed by this country to confront the challenges of Israeli occupation of our land and also to tackle the economic problem which the country is faced with. In our steadfastness, the prince said, it should be clear to all that preparedness and constant development of human and material resources are required because this is a country with meagre resources and is confronting enormous challenges. But, he said, its people are brave and offer sacrifice for their nation.

Prince Hassan referred to the battle of Mu'ta in the early Islamic era and said the new generations should learn lessons from the great leaders of the past and achieve successes as they did. He said qualified and excellent leaders are therefore required to lead the nation in the struggle against its enemies and also in the struggle to overcome all economic and social problems.

Al Dustour: King hails accord

KING HUSSEIN'S statements which were published by the Spanish newspaper Al Pais reflected Jordan's policies towards the establishment of a just Middle East peace. The King pointed to the Jordanian-Palestinian accord of Feb. 11, which he said constitutes a basis for a joint Arab stand, particularly because this accord had won the support of both peoples on the West and East banks of Jordan, and was backed by other nations.

The King said that this accord is in line with the resolutions of all Arab summit meetings and therefore displays clearly Jordan's commitments to them and keenness on their implementation. He said that the accord provides for the Palestine Liberation Organisation to act as a basic partner in any negotiations and in the projected international peace conference.

In his statement, the King was careful to pay tribute to the Spanish people and government for maintaining friendly ties with the Arab Nation and for Madrid's refusal to recognise Israel and to establish diplomatic relations with it. King Hussein wanted to point to these facts in advance to his planned visit to Spain because he is keen on maintaining excellent Arab-Spanish relations and deepening ties of friendship and cooperation with the Spanish people.

Sawt Al Shaab: Significant diplomatic move

KING HUSSEIN'S visit to Spain starting Monday represents an important stage in Jordan's diplomatic moves on the international scene aimed at canvassing support of world nations for Arab just causes and for a peaceful and just settlement for the Middle East question.

The visit assumes importance in view of Spain's status as a member of the European group of nations and in the light of its historic links with the Arab World. These help to build a bridge of cooperation and understanding between Europe and the Arab Nation. It is to be noted that Spain has been one of the very few Western nations which opted not to recognise Israel and has maintained its strong relations with the Arab countries and continued to support the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland.

Spain's relations with Jordan which date back to the reign of King Abdullah in 1949 are characterised with mutual respect and mutual interest. Jordan appreciates Spain's constructive efforts towards establishing peace based on justice. We appreciate Spain's stand and its continuous resistance to Zionist pressure to establish relations with it.

We are confident that the King's visit to Spain and his meeting with King Juan Carlos will give further impetus to these relations and so help to serve the cause of peace.

Sudan faces drought, hunger and controversy

As if drought and famine were not enough, Sudan today is afflicted with a host of economic and political problems that make the future a bleak prospect for its people and a matter of grave concern for its allies. Tony Walker recently in Sudan, reports.

DRIVE EAST from Khartoum to the Ethiopian border beyond the irrigated triangle south of the capital, between the White and Blue Niles, and the grip of Sudan's terrible drought becomes clear.

After mile after mile passes without sign of green foliage. The parched grazing and cropping country is dotted with the carcasses of dead animals, while families dig for water in dried-out river beds in a listless daily ritual.

Sudan is in desperate circumstances. It is afflicted by drought and famine, a full-scale insurrection in the south, an influx of more than one million refugees from Ethiopia and Chad, and an economic crisis presided over by Jaafar Numeiri, the country's increasingly idiosyncratic ruler.

The spectacle deeply alarms its friends in the region, notably Egypt, and its backers in the West led by the U.S., who have long regarded Sudan as a pivotal country in Africa and a strategic buffer between Libya and Ethiopia.

American officials still describe Sudan as a "strategic asset", although with diminishing certainty, for at best the country faces a long rehabilitation, while at worst there is a growing danger of fragmentation between the broadly Muslim north and Christian or animist south.

The long lines of motor vehicles which queue at petrol stations in Khartoum for rationed supplies are the most visible sign of the country's bankruptcy. In a country of vast distances, access to fuel has become an obsession and fortunes are being made by profiteers. In February, the black market price for one gallon of petrol ranged up to \$20 (\$200).

At crowded refugee camps on the Sudanese-Ethiopian border relief workers say the logistical problems caused by lack of fuel are a constant drag on their efforts to save lives. Urgently needed foodstuffs and medical supplies are delayed, sometimes for days, as refugees continue to flood across the border.

Al Tahir Younis, a senior official of the Sudanese agency responsible for refugees, says that "refugees are coming with nothing in big numbers from many different directions. It is beyond our capacity, really beyond anyone's capacity to absorb them."

According to the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Khartoum, 121,000 refugees have crossed into north-western Sudan from Chad since the middle of last year and some 771,000 Ethiopians are now in settlements and towns in eastern Sudan. The first influx of Ethiopians came in 1967, but numbers accelerated last October as drought conditions in Ethiopia continued to deteriorate in the northern provinces of Tigre and Eritrea.

Wad Sherife camp near the Sudanese border town of Kassala was designed for 4,000, but it is now holding 75,000 refugees. At one point last December, there was a daily influx of 6,000-12,000, a flood of people that tested to the limit Sudan's ability to absorb new arrivals.

Sudanese officials are deeply worried about the mass movement of Ethiopians into their country with its population of a little more than 20 million.

"Our culture is still compact and strong enough to receive refugees, but we're afraid people are going to react and if that happens it will spoil our ability to accommodate new arrivals," says Mr. Younis. Harassed officials insist, however, they are not about to push refugees back over the border saying this would be against national policy and the nature of Sudanese. There have been reports nevertheless of tension over access to scarce resources in a country struggling to feed and provide water for its own population.

The impact of the refugees on the fragile ecology of Sudan, reeling under its third successive year of drought, is incalculable. Thousands of acres of valuable agricultural land has been spoiled, rivers have run dry and subsurface water has been polluted. And there is little prospect of large numbers of Ethiopians returning home soon.

Sudanese officials and international relief workers are planning on the basis that a huge Ethiopian population is in Sudan to stay and will not return until security is restored in Tigre and Eritrea. According to Barbara Hendrie, an American who is working with Tigrean refugees and who recently crossed the border into Ethiopia, whole villages are "on the move" and prospects are for a further large influx of Ethiopians.

The only way to stop Sudan being "buried under refugees," she says, is for donor organisations to transport food supplies across the border into Ethiopia on a large scale instead of the present small amounts that are dribbling through.

In Khartoum, U.N. officials are becoming increasingly alarmed about Sudan's famine that could place 20 per cent of the population at risk by the second half of this year. According to Arthur Holcombe, chief representative of the U.N. development programme, UNDP, there will be a "food deficit" after June of about 250,000 tonnes which is the equivalent of 3.7 million people not receiving their basic requirements.

Thousands of Sudanese have

been forced by drought to leave their land in the north-west and north-east, and are now posing a considerable internal refugee problem.

Sudan, which was once spoken of as the potential "bread basket" of the Middle East, is struggling for survival, a victim of unpredictable political rule and economic misfortune. For its present difficulties can only in part be explained by the drought and famine, and the influx of refugees.

A recent World Bank study blamed Sudan's economic crisis on inadequate economic management policies compounded by external factors such as the sharply increased price of petrol in the 1970s.

This coincided with a disastrous fall in real terms in the value of Sudan's exports by nearly 50 per cent between 1972-73 and 1981-82, the World Bank found, mainly because of a dramatic reduction in the volume of cotton exports, down in 1981-82 to less than 15 per cent of the 1971-72 level.

"Transport difficulties and other infrastructural problems contributed to this decline," the report said, "as did declining maintenance in many public irrigation schemes."

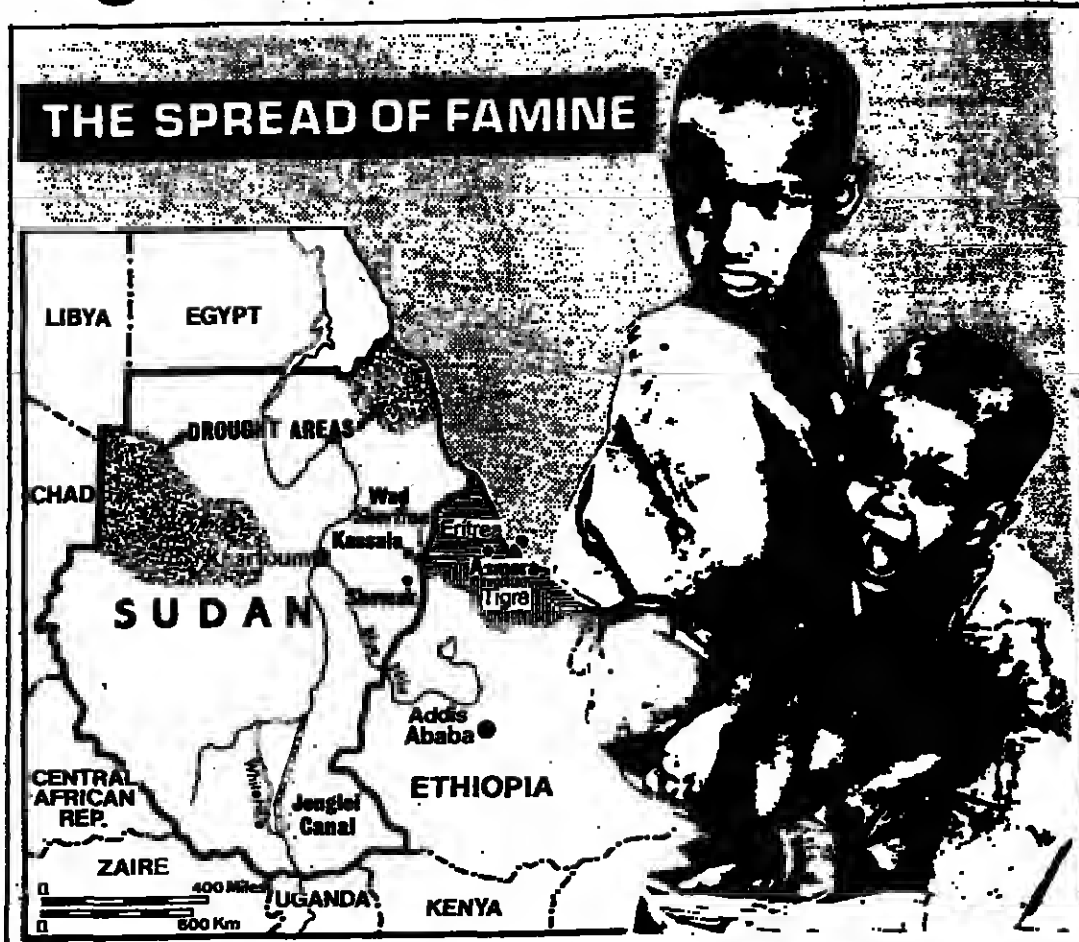
As exports fell in real terms, Sudan stepped up its international borrowings. It is estimated that its total foreign debt now stands at \$9 billion, and its debt service burden as a proportion of exports of goods and services increased from 12 per cent in 1972-73 to more than 100 per cent a decade later.

Sudan is the despair of the international financial community, notably the International Monetary Fund (IMF) with which it has a troubled history. The Sudanese are heavily in arrears to most, if not all, creditors and several standby arrangements with the IMF have collapsed because Sudan has been unable to meet fund conditions.

The question today is whether Sudan will slide further into an economic and security mire from which escape will be all but impossible, or whether small indications that it is intent on improving its housekeeping signal the start of a long haul back from the present crisis to a realisation of its undoubted potential. The prospects, it must be said, are not promising.

If President Numeiri is troubled by his negative image in the West, the hostility of large numbers of his countrymen and the economic crisis, he has not allowed it to deflect him from his ideological programme, which has contributed substantially to his problems.

His decision in January publicly to hang Mr. Mahmoud Mohamed Taha, head of the moderate Republican Brothers, over his criticism of the application of "Shari'a" law, was no doubt a warning to opponents of his pro-



gramme. The hanging of Mr. Taha, a 76-year-old devout Muslim and political moderate, dashed hopes that Mr. Numeiri may have been turning away from the more confrontational elements of his drive.

For many Sudanese who had hoped that the country's economic crisis and the problems in the south may be softening Mr. Numeiri's political programme it was a profoundly depressing development. But an apparent concern about dislocation caused by the application of fundamentalist principles has been a feature of Mr. Numeiri's rule since 1983.

By any reasonable political standards, Mr. Numeiri's own position should be precarious, but the opposition is fragmented and without the apparent means to topple the regime. A leading opposition figure said that if there were to be a challenge to Mr. Numeiri realistically, it could only come from the army.

The military, however, is well looked after and young officers who demonstrate a spirit of independence are not encouraged. Foreigner officers, there are the few, are at the end of their careers of positions with parastatal organisations like the military economic corporation, where there are riches to be made.

Mr. Numeiri appeared to have neutralised the fundamentalist Muslim Brothers, one of the main opposition groups, by his introduction of Shari'a law. The brotherhood effectively became the establishment and its leader, Hassan Turabi, was among the president's closest advisers.

But Mr. Numeiri's recent announcement that he had dismissed Mr. Turabi and other prominent Muslim Brothers confirmed an estrangement that had been apparent for some time.

The question now is whether Mr. Numeiri's falling out with the brotherhood will lead to another profound zig-zag in his mercurial career and a backing away from the application of Shari'a. The immediate cause of his action against the Muslim Brothers appears to have been recent disturbances involving the brotherhood and leftist and southern Sudanese students at the University of Khartoum, which forced the closure of the campus. Other opposition groups are almost invisible.

The main immediate threat to Mr. Numeiri appears to lie in the southern rebellion that has left Sudan divided and jeopardised its most critical development projects. The activities of the Sudanese people's Liberation Army (SPLA) have stopped Chevron Oil's attempts to exploit a large field near Bendin on the Upper Nile, which would have made Sudan self-sufficient by 1986.

Return on Chevron's investment of more than \$800 million in its Sudan operation depends on restoration of order in the mainly Christian and animist southern regions where there is intense hostility towards the dominant Dinka tribe towards Mr. Numeiri's policies and recent administrative changes in the south aimed at weakening the tribe's influence.

The other major project being held up because of rebel activity is

the Jonglei Canal, designed to increase the flow of water in the White Nile on which France's Compagnie de Construction Internationale is the main contractor. Work on both the above projects has been stopped for almost one year and there appears little prospect of an early resumption.

Go-between in the recent contracts between Sudan and Libya was Adnan Khashoggi, the Saudi financier, who in October last year concluded a broad-based agreement for development on Sudan's oil resources.

The agreement with Mr. Khashoggi for the establishment of the National Oil Company of Sudan was seen as an attempt by Mr. Numeiri to put pressure on Chevron to resume development of the Bentiu field.

Those searching for some good news in Sudan could point to the improvement in 1983-84 in the balance of payments position. Export revenues increased by 28 per cent to \$732 million with cotton contributing about \$344 million.

Imports declined eight per cent to \$573 billion, partly because of a drop in the price of oil. The depreciation of the free market value of the Sudanese pound. There was also a reduction in growth in money supply and inflation eased marginally to 25 per cent from about 30 per cent.

But the continuing drought, which has hit crops, notably cotton and sorghum, is a serious setback. Sudan's short-term prospects are bleak and so too is life for most of the people — Financial Times news feature.

Israeli troops drag patients from hospital

ISRAELI OCCUPATION forces in South Lebanon routinely haul patients from their beds in Tyre's main hospital, according to a Reuters report in March. Recently, an unconscious wounded man was taken from the operating room.

Dr. Ahmad Mroue, director of the 100-bed Jebel Amel Hospital, said that Israeli troops repeatedly searched wards for "suspects." Once, they took 15 people, and in February they seized four patients and hospital laboratory chief Jamal Zein and his two woman assistants.

Dr. Mroue said that Israeli officers accused him of harbouring resistance fighters, demanded the

names of wounded patients and threatened to destroy the hospital when he refused.

Last month, Israeli soldiers entered the operating theatre to seize a wounded Lebanese citizen named Hussein Tabl from the post-operative recovery room. "The man had a bullet wound in the lung," said Dr. Mroue. "He was in the post-operative unit beside the operating theatre when 10 Israeli soldiers came in with automatic rifles. Three or four came through the operating room to get him. It was thirty minutes after the operation, and he was still unconscious from anaesthetic when they took him."

The Israelis have launched a systematic campaign of harassment against the hospital. Dr

Mroue said that dozens of bullet holes in the back of the building and inside the rear wards and offices had come from a machine gun post at an Israeli camp 200 metres away which regularly fired on the hospital. Bullet holes in the front were caused by plainclothes agents who last month stood outside and shot at it.

"Every three or four days, they shoot at the hospital," said Dr. Mroue. "Once, a bullet hit a patient's pillow as he was sleeping. Once, they wounded two patients at night." — Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding (CAABU) Bulletin.

Every three or four days, they shoot at the hospital," said Dr. Mroue. "Once, a bullet hit a patient's pillow as he was sleeping. Once, they wounded two patients at night." — Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding (CAABU) Bulletin.

Wazir: New front designed to become Syrian tool

(Continued from page 1)

masses, especially the people living under the Israeli occupation." Mr. Wazir, a member of the Central Committee of Fateh, said such efforts on the part of the new front "are doomed to failure because the current PLO leadership enjoys the support and backing of the Palestinian masses, especially in the occupied territories."

"The formation of the new front cannot be seen different or independent from Syrian plans to divide and contain the PLO and impose the Syrian will on the organisation," he said.

The formation of the new front

was not a surprise for either the PLO leadership or political observers since it had been an announced goal of the four Damascus-based anti-Arafat factions which severely criticised the PLO chairman's visit to Cairo and meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in December 1983.

The four factions, which were grouped in a self-styled "national front," could not realise this goal earlier because other major Palestinian factions preferred to continue a dialogue with the Fateh leadership to ensure that Mr. Arafat would not take "any unilateral

decision as the one to visit Egypt."

However, a decision by the Fateh leadership to convene the PNC in Amman last November and the mainstream movement's endorsement of the Feb. 11 Jordan-PLO accord worked as a determining factor in prompting the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) led by George Habash, to join the new front alongside the "national alliance" with which the PFLP was reluctant to break contacts, observers say.

The new front now includes: — The PFLP; — The PFLP-General Command

led by Ahmad Jibril;

— The dissident wing of the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF);

— The Popular Struggle Front led by Samir Ghosheh;

— Saiga led by Isam Al Qadi; and

— Rebels within Fateh led by Colonel Saeed Musa (Abu Musa).

The PLF, which split because of differences over the convening of the PNC in Amman, is represented by Mahmoud Abbas in the PLO Executive Committee. However, Damascus-based PLE members who support Talast Yacoub joined the front.

Two other PLO factions, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) led by Nayef Hawatmeb and the Palestinian Communist Party headed by Suleiman Najjab, have not joined the front, because they "believe it will eventually lead to the creation of an organisation to replace the PLO," according to informed sources.

Political observers here view the new front as "another step in furthering the divisions in the organisation." They say that the participation of the PFLP in the front has "slammed the door against any future move to reconcile the PLO factions opposed to Mr. Arafat with the leadership of Fateh."

Falasha airlift involved 'flights from Khartoum'

(Continued from page 1)

refugees from an airstrip at Gedara, about 320 kilometres south-east of the Sudanese capital, to Israel via air routes over the Red Sea and the Mediterranean.

After the January operation ended, Mr. Numeiri said the Falashas were welcome to leave Sudan for anywhere except Israel. The source who witnessed the Khartoum flights, asking anonymity, said he did not know from where the refugees were brought to the airport, as there are no camps near Khartoum.

"I imagine transport was arranged for them," he said. "As far as we know, this was a bilateral deal between the governments of Sudan and the United States."

The Los Angeles Times said in its report that groundwork was laid during a March 6 meeting in Khartoum between U.S. Vice-President George Bush and Mr. Numeiri.

Like Mr. Numeiri, who is going to Washington this week for medical tests and a meeting with President Ronald Reagan, the Ame-

LETTERS

Upon client's proposals

To the Editor:

WE HAVE received a copy of your newspaper of Saturday, Feb. 23, 1985, in which there is an article by Rana Sabbagh reporting on Mr. Hani Snowbar comments on the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC).

As the designers of that building, we have no option but to defend our position and put the record straight on many of the matters raised by Mr. Snowbar, insofar as they concern the building and its performance.

It is said that before making comments about the RCC, Mr. Snowbar did not investigate the history of this project.

The original concepts for the then Royal Theatre were prepared in 1972, in accordance with instructions received by the client. Through the design stage of the project, advice was sought from theatre consultants. The first set of proposals, submitted in 1973, were rejected, and our firm prepared an alternative scheme for a multi-purpose building; this was to include a cinema, a theatre, exhibition galleries, a restaurant and a night club.

The proposals were resubmitted and received full approval from the client.

Shortly after construction commenced, our commission was terminated and eventually the whole project was abandoned. For several years, the structure remained unfinished.

In 1980, our firm was called back, and asked if the building could be viable as a conference centre, and if it would be possible to complete it in an incredible short space of time on a limited budget. New proposals were prepared following strict client instructions and these were approved and the building made ready for use in the space of 5½ months.

On completion of this stage, a theatrical manager was appointed and the building as now exists was completed to meet his requirements. Many suggested features were rejected in order to meet stringent budgets.

This is a building which complied with requests made by the client body, which was capable of being adjusted to new requirements more than once during its construction, and finished to standards seldom seen in other public buildings in Jordan.

The implication that our firm worked in vacuum, without expert advice is both misleading and unfair. A judgment is made now by an understandably disappointed assistant director, who apparently lacks the funds to operate the building, but his criticism ignores the history of the building, and that circumstances at the time of design and later of construction are different from today.

I trust, sir that you will be able to publish in your newspaper our reply to the criticism levelled at one of our buildings.

E.J.D. Mansfield,
Senior partner,
Halcrow Group Architectural Practice,
London.

مكتبة الامم المتحدة

Neolithic village of 'Ain Ghazal reveals one of largest prehistoric Mideast sites

By Rami G. Khouri

THREE FULL seasons of excavations at the stone age village of 'Ain Ghazal, on the northern entrance of Amman, have unearthed one of the largest prehistoric sites in the Middle East that may help unlock some of the mysteries of humankind's earliest practices related to symbolism, cult, ritual and death.

The 'Ain Ghazal village dates from the Neolithic, or the "new stone age" period, roughly between 8000 and 4000 B.C. This was a decisive moment in the social and cultural development of mankind, when small bands of nomadic hunter-gatherers first settled down into permanent campsites, which gradually developed into year-round villages. They domesticated animals, cultivated plants, and started experimenting with architecture, human art forms, pottery and objects of cult and ceremony.

'Ain Ghazal covers an area of over 12 hectares (30 acres) on both sides of the highway that enters Amman from the north. In fact, it was during the construction of the highway eight years ago that flint artifacts from the area were first brought to the attention of archaeologists.

The Jordanian Department of Antiquities recognised the importance of the site, but lacked a team of stone age and early village

life specialists to dig it. Excavations started in 1982, under the co-direction of two American archaeologists, Dr. Gary Rollefson and Dr. Al Leonard, who were resident in Jordan at the time. Since 1983, the 'Ain Ghazal project has been headed by Dr. Rollefson, now a professor of anthropology at San Diego State University, and Dr. Alan H. Simmons of the University of Kansas' Museum of Anthropology.

A cache of several dozen human statues and busts — thought to be the earliest examples of human statuary ever discovered — has been the most spectacular find at 'Ain Ghazal. But the archaeologists have also unearthed large quantities of other artifacts (including over a million bone and stone tool fragments) that are starting to fill some gaps in our knowledge of our earliest "urban" ancestors.

The site has provided valuable information that may allow scholars to reconstruct the physical, economic, social and perhaps even some of the religious and cultic aspects of a Middle Eastern village people who lived some 8000 years ago, and helped usher in the pre-dawn of human civilisation as we know it today.

Carbon-14 dating techniques applied to some of the organic artifacts from 'Ain Ghazal confirm

the village existed for hundreds of years between 6500 B.C. and 5500 B.C. — or over 3,000 years before the Egyptian and Mesopotamian civilisations, and some 5,000 years before Greece and Rome. 'Ain Ghazal flourished mainly during the Pre-Pottery Neolithic B (PPNB) era (7400-6000 B.C.), when stone age societies had not yet discovered how to make and use pottery.

Last year's excavations showed that the village of 'Ain Ghazal continued through the end of the PPNB and into the first centuries of the Pottery Neolithic A (PNA) era, when true pottery came into use. In excavation layers on the south side of the site, the archaeologists unearthed well-made "Yarmoukian" pottery that seems to come from the early centuries of the PNA, around 5700-5000 B.C.

'Ain Ghazal is therefore an even more important site than heretofore thought because of what it may reveal about the cultural transition from the pre-pottery to the pottery Neolithic eras, between 6500-5500 B.C.

This seems to have been a peaceful and relatively prosperous farming village, with no evidence yet of any defensive or military structures. Some of the excavated stone-wall houses were rebuilt as many as six times during their lifetime, indicating a stable community that kept growing and changing over time. At least nine major construction phases of the village have been identified so far.

Dr. Rollefson estimates the population of 'Ain Ghazal during its heyday at between 1500-2000. For its time, this was a major population centre — a veritable stone age metropolis that was two or three times bigger than the famous Neolithic village at Jericho, on the West Bank of the Jordan River.

The PPNB village people exploited the rich natural environment around 'Ain Ghazal. They started to master the domestication of animals and the cultivation of cereals and other plants. They supplemented their diets with wild animals they hunted, and with berries, fruits, nuts, seeds and other wild plants they picked. The name 'Ain Ghazal means "spring of the gazelle" in Arabic.

The animal species represented in the 'Ain Ghazal bone remains include goat, gazelle, cattle, wild pig, small carnivores (such as fox), hare, turtles, birds, rodents, fish and equids. There is some evidence that cattle and goat were being domesticated, but the villagers still relied heavily on hunting wild game to provide their meat intake.

Dr. Alan Simmons remarks that the extraordinarily wide range of animal meat available to the residents of Neolithic 'Ain Ghazal suggests the people knew how to exploit their location on the border of several different environmental zones, including the densely forested hilly country to the north and south, the savannah-like steppe to the east, and the deep gorge of the Jordan Valley to the west.

"We are dealing with a village that was strategically located in a lush immediate environment that bordered on several other types of climatic zones that were rich in different kinds of animals," he says. Plant remains indicate the people were consuming more peas and lentils than wheat and barley, along with small amounts of chickpeas, fig and assorted "weeds" that probably represented plentiful wild plants.



Site of one of the larger houses during excavations at 'Ain Ghazal in 1984.

haeologists rather baffled. The material culture of the "Ain Ghazal" was equally impressive. They wore jewellery made out of imported coloured stones, carved bone, carnelian, and polished animal teeth. Some people wore elaborate mother-of-pearl and limestone pendants.

Their tools, usually made of locally available flint, seem to fit in with other Neolithic "toolkits" from throughout the Middle East. They included stone blades, knives, drills/reamers, scrapers, chisels, handaxes, choppers, small "microliths" and semi-circular "lucates", arrowheads and spe-

arpoons, and wood-working tools called burins. 'Ain Ghazal has relatively more burins than other Middle East Neolithic sites, suggesting the residents of 'Ain Ghazal spent a good deal of their time carving wood.

Bone tools are relatively rare, and suggest a "sewing kit" interpretation. The bone tool finds include awls, spatulas, needles and a 12-cm-long, slender, curved "wand". These seem to have been used for sewing, weaving and producing leather and animal skin products.

To be continued Wednesday



Some of the flint blades and arrowheads excavated at 'Ain Ghazal, and (centre-left) an animal figurine.



An 8,000-year-old stone bowl is excavated from a house at 'Ain Ghazal.



The statues and busts as they were discovered in the field in 1983.

Burial of radioactive junk adds to Mexico's burdens

By Cam Rossie
Associated Press

SAMALAYUCA, Mexico — On a remote desert hilltop in northern Mexico, labourers work in deep pits to construct six dinosaur-size cement and steel coffins.

The giant graves are meant for a man-made monster — thousands of tons of radiation-contaminated steel — that travelled to 16 American states and across northern Mexico last year.

This cemetery about 64 kilometres south of Ciudad Juarez, just across the U.S.-Mexico border, is the final resting place of tainted steel, radioactive dirt and debris, the aftermath of North America's worst accidental radiation release.

The nightmare began in November 1983 when a 44-pound cylinder containing thousands of highly radioactive, pinhead-sized cobalt-60 pellets was taken from a hospital and sold to a Ciudad Juarez junkyard.

Tampering allowed the pellets to spread to the scrap metal, which then was sold to processing plants in Ciudad Juarez and Chihuahua, the state capital. The contaminated steel was fabricated into table bases and reinforcement rods used in construction.

The tainted steel was discovered in January 1984 when a truck triggered an alarm as it passed through a radiation detector at Los Alamos National Laboratory near Santa Fe, New Mexico.

But the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission estimates about 500 tons of the 6,000 tons of steel produced made its way to the United States before the radiation was discovered.

The rest of the contaminated steel had been distributed throughout northern Mexico, where some of it had been used in construction.

Mexico has taken back the steel sold in the United States and relocated most of that sold inside the country.

"We believe we have recovered the large majority of this steel," said Armando Fernandez Matheu, chief of the state Public Sanitation Office.

But Mexican authorities in Ciudad Juarez say at least 200 people have undergone treatment because of exposure to the radiation and that a dozen people, including two junkyard workers, are being treated because of increased risk of cancer.

Two road barriers carrying the nuclear symbol warn of "danger" at the entrance to the burial ground, about eight kilometres over a pitted dirt road off the main highway.

Mounds of radioactive soil, rusted reinforcement bars and scrap metal mingle with the desert bush and cacti just a few yards from where two dozen construction workers pour eight-inch-thick concrete and steel walls.

"It's not very dangerous," crew leader Carlos Limas said as he looked across to the piles of debris. "The radiation diminishes with age."

The coffins, 40 metres long, 15 metres wide and five metres high, are grouped in two rows of three and will be covered with dirt once they are filled.

The cemetery, scheduled for completion by early April, will hold 5,500 tons of contaminated steel, 1,500 tons of junk metal,

7,000 square metres of dirt and slag plus 700 0-gallon cement drums containing cobalt-60 pellets, Mr. Fernandez said.

This site, about 24 kilometres southwest of the tiny hamlet of Samalayuca, is the third selected for the cemetery. Burial was delayed six months and the contaminated steel relocated several times because of public outcry in Ciudad Juarez and Samalayuca, the first two sites selected.

Jesus Sanchez, Samalayuca section secretary, said citizens protested vehemently when the government piled tons of the junk just outside the town.

The uproar ended when the debris was moved, but Mr. Sanchez said he and other residents still worry about their safety.

"Who knows what will happen in the future," he said.

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THE SPANISH EMBASSY and the Spanish Cultural Centre in cooperation with the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) presents

Spanish guitarist Juan Manuel Cortes in Spanish and classical music on Tuesday March 26 at 8:00 p.m. at the RCC.

Tickets are available from the RCC
Tel: 661026
Ticket price: JD 2



SPANISH CULTURAL CENTRE Spanish Classes

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Spanish Cultural Centre, Queen Zeln St., Jabal Amman (First Circle), close to the Spanish Embassy.

Phone: 24049

TIME

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WATER AUTHORITY TAFILA WASTEWATER PROJECTS CONTRACT T-1/80/85 CONTRACT T-2/81/85

The water Authority is soliciting bids from Jordanian contractors, with U.S. construction firms as a wastewater project at Tafila. The U.S. subcontractor through his participation in the construction, will be expected to transfer technology to, end to upgrade the technical and managerial capabilities of the Jordanian prime contractor.

The project is financed by the Water Authority and by USAID under A.I.D. project 278-0259; payment will be in Jordan Dinars. The project consists of the following two contracts, which will be bid separately. Contractors may bid on one or both of the contracts.

1. Contract T 1:

The construction of a 1600-cubic meter per day average capacity wastewater treatment plant consisting of the following major structures and facilities: operation building, Imhoff tanks, two trickling filters, secondary clarifiers, solid contact channel, chlorine tank, recirculation pumping station, septage receiving station, effluent holding lagoon, chlorine gas feed system, one sludge lagoon, 22-sludge drying beds, and control room.

2. Contract T 2:

(a) Water system — The construction of about 15 kilometres of ductile iron pipes ranging in size from 80 to 250 mm with pressure reducing and value reducing stations, about 2.5 kilometres of galvanised steel pipes ranging in size from 1/2 to 2 inches, about 1.25 km of black steel pipes ranging in size from 100 to 150 mm, and two reservoirs one of 4500 cu.m. capacity and the other of 1000 cu.m. capacity.

(b) Sewerage system — The construction of about 15.0 km of concrete sewers ranging in size from 150 to 300 mm, and about 1.0 km of ductile iron sewers ranging in size from 150 to 300 mm.

A Jordanian firm wishing to participate in this project must make its own contractual arrangement with a U.S. subcontractor. The Jordan Contractors Association has agreed to maintain a roster of interested U.S. firms for the benefit of Jordanian contractors. U.S. firms may wish to provide their name, address and telex number to the Jordan Contractors Association, telex No. 23575 CONASS JO, Jordanian firms that do not already have contacts with U.S. firms may wish to use this source of information.

On or before April 25, 1985 each Jordanian prime contractor shall submit in person or by mail the information on both the contractor and subcontractor requested in the questionnaire included with the contract documents. The information will be evaluated and the prime contractor will be informed not later than May 5, 1985 whether or not to submit a bid. A prebid conference will be held on May 21, 1985 at 0900 hours, Jordan local time, at the office of the Water Authority in Amman.

The bids are due not later than 1200 noon, Jordan local time, on June 4, 1985 at the office of the Water Authority in Amman. Contract documents may be examined and purchased at the Water Authority, Nabulus Street, Jebel Hussein, P.O. Box 2412, Amman, Jordan. Telephone 666111, Telex 23439 WAJ JO.

The cost of the contract documents is as follows:

	Contract T 1		Contract T 2	
	Initial Copy	Additional Copy	Initial Copy	Additional Copy
JD	100	25	100	25
US\$	250	60	250	60

Eng. Mohammed S. Kilani
President
Water Authority

Navratilova beats Sukova in women's tennis final

NEW YORK (R) — Top-seeded Martina Navratilova, dispelling any idea that she might be slipping, swept past Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia 6-3, 7-5, 6-4 Sunday to win the 1984-85 Women's Circuit Tennis Championships.

In a virtuoso performance during which she held service 16 straight times, the 28-year-old Navratilova at least partly avenged a semi-final loss to Sukova in the Australian Open last December. Serving and volleying brilliantly, Navratilova was able to break Sukova's service only once in each set of the rare best-of-five final format, instituted during last year's women's championships.

But that was all she needed, since the 20-year-old Sukova, who possesses one of the hardest serves on the women's circuit, reached breakpoint only once on Navratilova's service and got to deuce on only one other occasion.

The victory, before a crowd of 14,966 at Madison Square Garden, was worth \$125,000 to Navratilova and improved her record for the year to 28-2.

The fifth-seeded Sukova earned \$60,000.

Navratilova's ability to handle the 6-foot 1-inch Sukova's service appeared to be the key to her victory.

"The difference was that I was able to attack her second serve more than she was to attack mine," said Navratilova, who as a youngster in Prague was coached for a while by Sukova's father, Cyril, and her late mother, Vera, a Wimbledon semi-finalist in 1962.

Navratilova conceded that her December loss to Sukova in the Australian Open was a motivating factor as she took the court Sunday even though she had beaten Sukova in two subsequent matches.

"It gets me up," she said, alluding to her three-set loss in Melbourne.

That defeat was only one of four Navratilova has suffered during the last two years while winning 106 matches.

But because it was followed by losses this year to Chris Evert Lloyd and Hana Mandlikova, who also beat her in January of last year, some players had said it indicated that Navratilova had become more vulnerable.

"They were saying I was tired

and washed up," said Navratilova. "People are awfully quick to jump the gun after one or two losses. And it's a bunch of baloney."

"I'm playing as well as ever. So don't write me off. I haven't reached my peak yet. What people don't realise is that I'm not playing worse, but that some of the other players are playing better. And I like it that way because of the competition."

Sukova, who has risen to fourth in the World Rankings, committed errors at key moments of the first two sets.

In the fourth game, she lost her service on two errors. In the seventh, she squandered her only breakpoint by tentatively hitting a service return long. In the 11th game of the second set, Navratilova broke through on four Sukova errors.

In game nine of the third set, Navratilova broke Sukova at 30 on two volley winners and two errors, then closed it out.

"It's hard knowing that you can't break her serve and you've got to hold your own," said Sukova, who has lost seven of eight matches to Navratilova. "It's pretty bad when I can't break her service even once."

Navratilova received a total of \$372,500 here. In addition to her \$125,000 singles prize, she split \$45,000 with Pam Shriver for the doubles title they won Saturday and received bonuses totalling \$225,000.

She was paid bonuses of \$150,000 and \$35,000 for topping the singles and doubles points standings in the past season and a bonus of \$40,000 for playing more than the 11 required tournaments.

That brought Navratilova's earnings this year to \$600,187.

Navratilova said that her new eyeglasses, which she wore for the first time a week ago while winning a tournament in Dallas, had helped her immeasurably.

Barcelona wins Spanish League title

LONDON (R) — It was fiesta time in Barcelona Sunday night as more than 100,000 cheering fans celebrated the Catalan team's first Spanish League title for 11 years.

Traffic ground to a halt and the streets were awash with champagne and flags as the city greeted the championship — and with it soccer supremacy over Madrid — following a 2-1 away win over Real Valladolid.

Barcelona had not won the Spanish Title since 1974, the heyday of Dutch World Cup star Johan Cruyff.

Their latest triumph has been widely attributed to the influence of another foreigner. English trainer Terry Venables, who joined the club last June.

But Venables and his army of Catalan fans had to endure an agonising last few minutes before Barcelona sealed the title, goalkeeper Javier Urruticoechea making a vital penalty save three minutes from time to preserve the points.

The celebrations, which went on until the early hours, were marred by only one outbreak of violence.

Some fans attacked a hamburger bar shouting: "Bunfarras, si. Hamburgers, no" — a reference to traditional Catalan sausage.

Catalonia is justifiably proud of Venables' team who have swept to the first major European title decided this season with astonishing verve only one season after being on the brink of chaos following the departure of former Argentine World Cup-winning manager Cesar Luis Menotti.

Venables, who has become a celebrated figure in his adopted city, said: "It's the most wonderful evening of my life. We have worked hard for this all season and we deserve it."

Barcelona took the lead through striker Francisco Clos after eight minutes, but Jorge Gonzalez equalised five minutes later. Long-serving full-back Jose Alencar met a corner from Ramon Caldera to put Barcelona back in front after 64 minutes.

Their fans were already celebrating when Julio Roberto fouled Gonzalez to concede the late

penalty, taken by Gonzalez, which Urruticoechea saved brilliantly to clinch the title.

Barcelona's nearest challengers Atletico Madrid bravely maintained their academic challenge with a 2-1 win at Racing Santander. But they will now have to be content with second place.

Elsewhere in Europe, the leading clubs in Italy, France, England and Portugal maintained their positions and edged closer to their respective League titles with comfortable wins.

In Italy, second-half goals from Antonio di Gennaro, Preben Elkjaer and Hans-Peter Briegel gave Verona a 3-0 win over bottom-placed Cremonese and a five-point lead at the top.

The Turin teams — Torino and Juventus — completed a city double, defeating Milan's Internazionale and AC Milan.

Juventus reproduced their best European Cup form. Goals from Marco Tardelli, Zibi Boniek and Massimo Briacchi overwhelmed later, after the visitors had taken the lead through Sandro Altobelli.

England to bat against Pakistan

SHARJAH (R) — England will make at least one change to the team which lost to Australia for Tuesday's match against Pakistan in the four-nation one-day tournament, manager Tony Brown said Monday.

He said off-spinner Pat Pocock would definitely be included, probably in place of seamer Neil Foster.

Australia's victory means they play India in the final on Friday. England and Pakistan, who lost to India, are playing for third place in the competition.

English captain Norman Gifford said the reason for Pocock's inclusion was the Sharjah wicket. The only international-class ground in the Middle East was better suited to spinners than to seamers. "You can tell by the way the seamers got knocked about

Sunday," he said.

Gifford was himself nursing a sore spinning finger Monday and if it has not improved by the morning, he may also stand down in favour of a younger man.

His most likely replacement would be 21-year-old batsman Robert Bailey, who is yet to make an appearance in any form of international cricket.

"We very much want to give

Bailey a game," Brown said.

Pakistani skipper Javed Miandad said he would also make some changes to the team that was all out for 87 against India.

Pakistan beat England by a comfortable margin when they last met in Melbourne in the so-called World Championship of cricket and Miandad said his team stood a good chance of gaining a similar result.

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One sterling	1.1735/45	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3813/23	Canadian dollars
	3.2230/50	West German marks
	3.6420/45	Dutch guilders
	2.7340/55	Swiss francs
	64.78/83	Belgian francs
	9.8450/8550	French francs
	2050.0/3.0	Italian lire
	256.10/25	Japanese yen
	9.2375/2475	Swedish crowns
	9.2350/2450	Norwegian crowns
	11.5575/5675	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	315.90/316.40	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (AP) — Prices closed lower on the London stock exchange Monday after what dealers said was a quiet trading session.

The start of the week and of a new accounting period, plus lack of fresh news and some blue chips being ex-dividend, combined to restrain buying, the dealers reported.

Declines in leading industrial stocks generally ranged from one to four pence, though they were greater for ex-dividend items. British government bonds were unchanged except for short-dated issues which surrendered 1/16 of a point.

Among the major oils, British Petroleum fell four pence and Burmah was untraded. Shell and Ultramar, both ex-dividend, dropped 30 and six pence respectively.

In mining, South African golds eased in patchy volume. Main list items lost 25-75 cents but with a few falls of as much as \$2.

In corporate developments, Beecham was two pence better on balance at 368 after an announcement that its offer for Unibond Holdings has now been declared unconditional and the Office of Fair Trading has indicated it won't refer it for investigation by the Monopolies and Merger Commission.

YOUR DAILY
Horoscope
from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR TUES. MARCH 26, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Until noon some fixed problems can be in effect to claim your undivided attention, and it is not a good time to make any heavy commitments so study all practical phases.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Try not to get confused about some monetary affair otherwise you could make mistakes, then tonight you get that feeling of affluence.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) In the morning you may find it difficult to gain a cherished wish, but later you can handle all practical affairs very well.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Get into detailed work in the morning, although somewhat boring, and later you can gain personal aims easily.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) A friend does not comprehend your ideas early, so state them more clearly and in simple language.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Follow directives of your employer to the letter; then later you can enjoy the company of good friends. Make sure your credit is good.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You may find some stumbling blocks in the path of your progress today, so consult with an expert who can give right advice.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Keep promises you have made and don't argue over them. Tonight you have a clearer picture of just where you are headed.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Try to compromise with an associate who is as bull-headed as you are and come to a fine understanding.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You may think you are not getting much done at your job, but keep plugging away at it and you find all is going well.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Forget that expensive amusement you desire and be content with the less costly, and in the evening you get much work done.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) If you are stubborn at home, there can be much trouble, so use reason and bring harmony there.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Take care not to do anything that will make an associate think you are not being fair. Think over decisions you have made.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will have much magnetism and should not hesitate to use it from the earliest period of life, especially to try to help his or her friends. Plan for a good education since your progeny will do very well in business, but later in life the interests turn to the idealistic and spiritual.

THE Daily Crossword by Harvey L. Chew

ACROSS

- Squabble
- Prohibition
- Map volume
- colada
- Hobgoblin
- Resided
- Came to rest
- Hindu philosophy
- Brilliant
- "Baby"
- (Levin)
- Musical piece for short
- Solid alcohol
- Bridge seat
- Actual
- Metaphorical
- place
- Boat also
- Sega's story
- Talk-out order words
- Radioactive
- gas
- Baroque e.g.
- Marshy place
- Muslin title
- Home of song
- Mineral deposits
- Uter cry
- Exile tale
- Haldenbury Mr.
- Chautauqua
- Actor Dick
- Elson's man
- Grove
- Accomplishment
- "Nanette"
- Come up
- Quail
- Talon
- Skins
- Diminutive
- Shillings

DOWN

- Certain TV show
- Anomalous herb
- Food
- Caution (flaming)
- Storksky
- Wild party
- Seder
- Counsel
- Heller's catch
- Fast period
- Winglike
- WWII town
- Gusset of tennis
- Initiate
- Medicinal plant
- Actor Greene
- Amphibian
- Male eyes at
- Refuse
- Graceland horse
- Vishnu incarnation
- Robert's passage
- Call meat
- Kite
- See god
- Camera parts
- Coward's spirit
- Firearm
- Saddle part
- Yam root
- Salerno
- Forearm bones
- Cat cries
- Trade
- Rebbit
- Leaf-etch
- Thin
- Immense

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ONIA CRISP RISE
MOR LINGER ANIM
BANDIAN BRONDSIE
EPIC ABAR
SKELETON SPIES
BACE BODIED TITIO
BICARDI CUPSIS BLEM
AIPISIP AULEHIDISE
TAYIA ANON
MAVERICKS ATKEISE
ABER POUAN WEIAN
BRIAL EIRIAN ARID
BELY TREKS YGIDA

Gulf states face capital outflow

DOHA (R) — Two senior Gulf monetary officials said Gulf countries have experienced liquidity pressures in recent years because of an outflow of private capital caused mainly by high international interest rates.

Qatar Monetary Agency Managing Director Majed Al Majed was quoted by the Doha newspaper Al Raya Monday as saying that high interest rates in foreign countries had led private investors to put their money into overseas investments.

Another factor was lack of domestic investment opportunities in Gulf states to absorb surplus cash "in the light of the troubled political conditions in the region", coupled with a decline in government expenditure.

Economic activity in all Gulf states depends heavily on government financed projects and because of a decline in oil revenue in the past few years the Qatari government has been rationalising

expenditure, he noted.

In Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE) central bank governor Mr. Abdul Malek Al Hamar told a banking training course in Sharja Sunday the pace of the outflow had continued to quicken in the past few months due to recession and slow economic growth.

He did not give details but official UAE figures show the amount of money invested abroad in 1984 rose to 20.8 billion dirhams (\$5.62 billion) from 10.3 billion (\$2.8 billion) in 1983.

But both officials said the outflow was temporary and was expected to stop when the economic situation returned to normal.

Arab agencies lend \$2 billion in 1984

Meanwhile, Arab-based aid agencies agreed to lend nearly \$2 billion in concessionary funds to developing nations in 1984, a

Poles rush to bank dollars

WARSAW (R) — Thousands of Poles flocked to state banks Monday to deposit privately-owned dollars in new accounts and beat a March 30 deadline after which illegally acquired money will not earn interest.

Official newspapers reported that Poles had banked more than \$1 billion between Jan. 1 and last Thursday and there were still several hundred million dollars in private hands that could enter the banking system.

At the most conservative official estimate, more than three million of Poland's 37 million people have access to dollars and other Western currencies, either as gifts from relatives or through illegal black-market dealings.

Since the country plunged into crisis in 1980, dollars have become vital for buying scarce goods and services and the black-market rate has soared.

In an effort to soak up the precious money and stamp out the black market, the communist authorities this year introduced new foreign-currency accounts in which people can place money that earns interest and can be used for travel abroad.

To attract illegally-owned dollars, the banks said people could open these accounts up to March 30 without saying where their money came from. After that, to earn interest and use the dollars for travel, people must prove the money's origin.

Norway expects crude oil output to level off in 1985

KUWAIT (R) — Norwegian Oil Minister Kaare Kristiansen said Sunday his country, accused by OPEC in recent years of boosting crude output at OPEC members' expense, expected its production to level off this year.

He also said here Norway's national oil company Statoil, which set off a round of price cuts last winter, preferred to follow the market rather than lead it.

Mr. Kristiansen, on a four-day official visit, told Reuters in an interview Norway would produce around 700,000 barrels a day of crude or slightly more this year, "about the same as in 1984."

But it had yet to define pricing policy, despite a decision this year to scrap prefixed contract prices in favour of individual customer deals, and following Britain's decision to abolish the British National Oil Corporation, he said.

"We are one of the smallest oil producing nations and can't really give a lead. We are waiting to see what the important oil producing nations are going to do," Mr. Kristiansen said.

He indicated reservations over Britain's abandonment of an official price-fixing role while prices are under pressure.

"If Britain now has to send out its oil on a spot basis, I do not think it is a good thing," he said.

He declined to go into detail on Norway's current pricing policy, on the grounds this was the domain of Statoil.

But he said the country had been able to retain its customer contracts, and was selling its oil at what he called "above average" prices.

"We try not to be forced to do what other countries have chosen, that is sell a major part of oil production on spot basis. That way, you give support to the lowest prices in the market."

The minister said he expected Norwegian crude output to fluctuate unpredictably next year as it phased out certain fields and brought up production from others, but said it could resume an upward trend from 1987 or 1988. He gave no detailed forecast.

Mr. Kristiansen is visiting Kuwait on the final leg of a three-nation Gulf tour which also included Qatar and Saudi Arabia. His trip coincides with a visit by China's Oil Minister Tan Kc, but he said this was purely coincidental.

Kuwait-based fund said Monday.

The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), which acts as coordinating secretariat for Arab national and regional development finance institutions, said they arranged aid of \$615 million in the final quarter of last year.

This benefited over 40 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and brought their total 1984 funding to \$1.96 billion, it said in a quarterly report.

Funds and technical assistance programmes were provided for agriculture, education, health, energy, industry, transport and telecommunications development, as well as trade deals and venture capital, it said.

The several funds involved include the Islamic Development Bank, Saudi Arabian Development Fund, OPEC Fund for International Development and Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development.

Poehl wants strong dollar



Karl Otto Poehl

PARIS (AP) — Bundesbank President Karl Otto Poehl believes that the dollar's strength offers more benefits for the world economy than the weakness that hit the U.S. currency in the 1970s.

In an interview with the French daily Le Matin published Monday the West German central bank president recalled the heavy inflation that brought the dollar to its lows of the 1970s.

"No one could want to see that again, rather, we should be happy that U.S. monetary policy has pulled the dollar back up. A strong dollar is in our interest."

Mr. Poehl did not indicate what might be an ideal level for the dollar. Nor did he elaborate on the benefits that the world economy has derived from its strength. But exchange rates have played an important role in attracting European exports to the United States and the dollar's strength has helped to bring U.S. inflation under control.

Asked about the prospects of a sudden dollar decline, Mr. Poehl said that "if the relationship between the dollar and the markets around, there could be problems (within the European Monetary System), but these are manageable."

He cited recent progress toward European economic policy convergence as an important factor in his optimism about future monetary stability.

IADB warns against L. American austerity

VIENNA (R) — The Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) annual meeting opened here Monday with a warning that austerity programmes aimed at resolving Latin America's debt crisis could have explosive political and social consequences.

"In several of our countries, the per capita income levels today are comparable to those of a decade ago, in some they have regressed to levels which prevailed a generation ago," IADB President Antonio Ortiz Mena told the regional aid bank's opening ceremony at Vienna's Hofburg palace.

Some 2,500 delegates from international banks and financial institutions gathered for the meeting, which is expected to focus on Latin America's \$360 billion debt burden and financial shortfalls in the 43-nation group.

On the eve of the meeting, Argentina won a pledge from its 11-bank steering committee that its hopes will stave off another crisis after having failed to meet inflation targets required under an International Monetary Fund

(IMF) programme.

Its central bank president, Mr. Alfredo Concepcion, said Sunday night he was confident that final agreement on a \$4.2 billion bank loan and a renegotiated IMF programme would be reached by mid-year, after messages went out to some 300 creditors this weekend seeking support for the plan.

Mexico, after doubts on its ability to comply with 1985 inflation targets, reached agreement with the IMF at the weekend to pave the way for the signing of commitments towards a \$48 billion debt rescheduling on Friday.

But there was still no sign of firm progress in Brazil's efforts to renegotiate a 1985 programme with the IMF, which would in turn restore blocked loan payments from the fund and allow talks to resume on a \$45.3 billion res-

cheduling. Mr. Ortiz Mena said economic measures over the past three years had cut social spending and diverted scarce resources towards increasing exports and production.

A vigorous effort had to be made to regain lost ground in raising living standards and head off political and social conflicts that he said were mounting due to the debt situation.

Latin leaders have frequently criticised austerity demands which typically involve devaluations, cuts in food subsidies and credit tightening, but Western bankers and IMF officials insist they are the only way out of the region's debt-induced problems.

While the region's economy grew in 1984 for the first time in three years, Mr. Ortiz Mena said formidable efforts were needed just to regain the living conditions achieved in the 1970s.

"That is the greatest challenge and the boldest undertaking confronting each Latin American country and the region as a whole," he said.

Danish government reported split as industrial conflict bites

COPENHAGEN (R) — Denmark's coalition government is split over intervening in an industrial conflict which has brought out 300,000 private sector workers over a wage dispute, political analysts said.

The effect of the combined strike and lockout, which began Sunday, worsened Monday, as workers failed to arrive for shifts after the weekend.

Food and fuel supplies were disrupted as truck drivers walked out, exports were hit by dock closures, many newspapers failed to appear, pupils at 30 schools were sent home for lack of heating and forty stoppages cut off smaller islands.

The dispute is over a union claim for a shorter working week and pay above the overall two per cent they say was offered.

The government will hold further talks on the conflict Monday,

with the opposition radical party, who want an immediate imposed settlement, but political commentators said there is disagreement in the government on how this should be done.

The radicals' support would give the minority centre-right government of Prime Minister Poul Schluter a parliamentary majority for legal intervention.

But analysts said some government members would prefer to let the conflict run for a couple of weeks.

Those opposed to early intervention won support from the leader of the Danish employers association, Mr. Hans Skov Christensen, who in a press interview said the government should not intervene until disruption proved intolerable.

But the dispute is a serious threat to the government's economic targets of holding down inflation

and eliminating the balance of payments deficit of about \$1.5 billion.

The conflict is disrupting air traffic, with Scandinavian SAS air line flights to and from Denmark cancelled after ground staff walked out. Some foreign airlines were able to land.

At the town of Aalborg in western Denmark, 100,000 people were without central heating and 30 schools sent home pupils after the district's heating station ran out of fuel.

Power stations continued operating, but without repair staff, and large stores stayed open with non-union labour who were banded leaflets by union members as they went to work.

Petrol stations have started to run out of fuel, and a post office spokesman said air mail would face delays since the dispute affected handling staff at airports.

EC agriculture ministers begin annual price-fixing marathon

BRUSSELS (R) — Farm ministers of the European Community (EC) began their annual wrangle over farm prices Monday but they seemed unlikely to bridge divisions over proposals for a virtual price freeze, diplomats said.

They said the ten, under pressure from powerful farm lobbies, are more divided than ever and the traditionally grueling three-day meeting is set to be one of the most difficult in the history of the Community.

Farm Commissioner Frans Andriessen has proposed unprecedented cuts of 3.6 per cent for

most cereals and as much as six per cent for some fruit and vegetables, but says the budgetary cost will be broadly similar to last year.

Under the common agricultural policy (CAP), farmers are guaranteed minimum prices for their products which are adjusted at the annual price-fixings. These artificially high prices have been blamed for creating stocks of unwanted food.

Last year farm expenditure rose to more than 19 billion European Currency Units (\$14 billion), setting off a financial crisis.

All member states officially

accept some price cuts must come.

West German Agriculture Minister Ignaz Kiechle says he will veto cuts in cereal prices because West German farmers took a price cut last year following agreement to dismantle in stages cross-border taxes called monetary compensatory amounts (MCAs).

The MCAs, used to iron out price differences between member states caused by currency fluctuations, are due to be cut again this year, worsening the effect of the cuts for West German farmers because of the relative strength of their currency.

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp

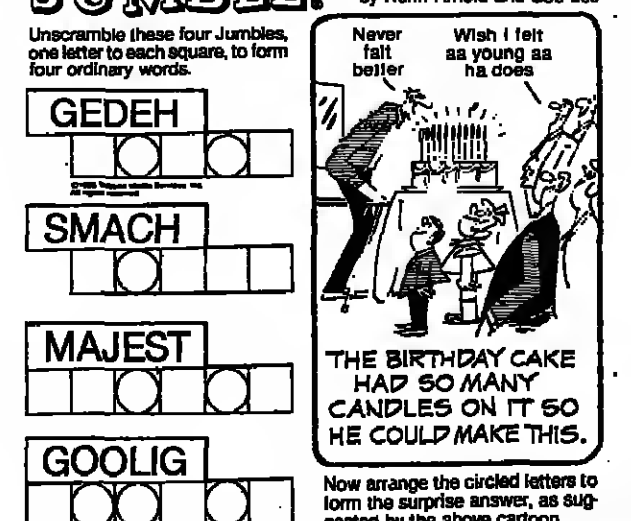


THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"There's nothing funny about a birthday card that costs \$6!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Answer here: OF HIS
(Answers tomorrow)
Saturday's Jumbles: ACUTE OUNCE CONVEY TREMOR
Answer: What his favorite drink was—THE NEXT ONE

U.S. undermining Geneva arms talks, Moscow says

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet news agency Novosti Monday accused the United States of undermining the Geneva arms talks with its plans for space-based defence and MX missiles.

President Reagan says the MX will give Washington a stronger hand at Geneva.

Novosti, which presents Moscow's views to the Western press, said a "massive propaganda campaign" had been launched in the United States aimed at creating an illusion about the defensive character of the Star Wars space-based programme and drawing NATO partners into implementing it.

This showed "the absence of a realistic approach to the problems being discussed at Geneva", Novosti said.

It added that U.S. congressmen were being pressed into approving funds for the manufacture of MX missiles and referred to the recent agreement of Belgium to deploy cruise missiles.

"All these measures look like a new demonstration of military force ... undermining the main subjects of the Geneva talks," the

agency said.

Meanwhile a group of U.S. congressmen has warned Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev that Moscow must comply with existing arms control treaties if new agreements are to be concluded at the arms talks in Geneva.

Congressional sources said Sunday that 23 liberal Democrats had signed a letter, saying that existing arms control agreements, particularly the 1972 anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty, must be honoured to avoid "serious consequences for the future of the arms control process."

It was not immediately known whether the letter had been delivered. The New York Times said in its early editions Monday the letter was presented to the Soviet embassy in Washington on Friday. The sources could not confirm this.

The sources said the purpose of

the letter was to send a signal to Moscow that arms control advocates as well as critics in Congress will insist that existing arms limitation pacts be honoured before future accords can be negotiated.

The sources said the letter contained at least one example of an alleged Soviet violation — a powerful radar installation under construction at Krasnoyarsk, central Siberia.

The Reagan administration has charged the station could be used to track anti-ballistic missiles (ABM) and, when completed in two or three years, it could be in violation of the ABM treaty.

The letter says that non-compliance with existing treaties would make prospects for a limit on space-based defences — believed to be Moscow's main goal at the newly resumed Geneva arms talks — more difficult.

The letter came shortly before the House of Representatives vote this week on funding for 21 more MX strategic nuclear missiles and amid opposition criticism that the Democratic party is "soft" on defence.

White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan said Sunday that if Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev visited the United Nations in September it might provide an opportunity for a summit with President Reagan.

"Obviously, that could be an occasion," Mr. Regan said in a television interview, but added: "The ball's in their court, they have to come to us."

The president said last week the time was ripe for a U.S.-Soviet summit.

The White House chief of staff said the prospects for a Gorbachev-Reagan summit were reasonable but that "Mr. Gorbachev has to get ready for it, he's a new leader, it takes time."

Mr. Regan said it would be "less than good" to hold a summit just for its own sake. "Does (Gorbachev) want to talk, and if so, what about?" Mr. Regan asked.

He said Mr. Regan had informed Mr. Gorbachev's predecessors, Konstantin Chernenko and Yuri Andropov, that he was willing to meet them if they showed interest.

NATO ministers to discuss Star Wars

LUXEMBOURG (Agencies) — NATO defence ministers will strive to find a common stance on President Reagan's plan for a space-based defence against ballistic missiles at a two-day nuclear planning meeting beginning here Tuesday.

The research programme, widely known as Star Wars, sparked unusually open disagreements between U.S. and British officials earlier this month and many Western European governments doubt whether such a system is feasible, affordable or desirable.

Given these differences, NATO has so far avoided collective comment. But with the new Geneva U.S.-Soviet talks on nuclear and space weapons under way, officials say the allies need some kind of joint position on the issue.

The 14 ministers are likely to adopt wording close to last December's U.S.-British statement that endorsed research on strategic defence but insisted that any deployment of space weapons must be a matter for negotiation with the Soviet Union.

The declaration issued by Mr. Reagan and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said that the West did not seek superiority over Moscow and that the aim of arms control talks should be radical reductions in offensive nuclear weapons.

France, the most outspoken European critic of Star Wars, will not be present in Luxembourg because it is not part of NATO's integrated military structure.

But the British and West German ministers are expected to stress that even if the U.S. research raises a distant hope of moving away from the atomic "balance of terror", NATO will still depend on nuclear deterrence well into the 21st Century.

NATO Secretary General Lord Carrington has his own doubts about whether Star Wars offers greater security or stability. He is urging Europeans to help formulate space weapons policy within the alliance rather than sniping from the sidelines.

The other main feature of the Luxembourg meeting will be a report by Supreme Allied Commander Gen. Bernard Rogers on how to implement a decision to withdraw 1,400 tactical nuclear warheads from Europe and modernise the remaining 4,600.

His plan is a closely-guarded secret but officials at NATO headquarters are sure he will not request controversial neutron weapons, which are being produced in the United States.

The weapons, regarded by

many officers as the most effective nuclear artillery, kill by enhanced radiation but cause less blast damage than atomic bombs.

U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger will have his first face-to-face encounter with his British counterpart, Michael Heseltine, since the British Foreign Office raised serious questions about the usefulness of Mr. Reagan's Star Wars defence proposal.

In a speech March 15, British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe questioned whether a space-based defence could be put in operation "without generating dangerous uncertainty" in East-West relations. He also said it could alter relations within NATO. Leaders in other allied governments — notably France and Italy — also have expressed doubts about Mr. Reagan's plan, which envisions the use in space of non-nuclear weapons to defend North America and Western Europe against nuclear missiles fired by the Soviet Union.

Helmut Kohl, the West German chancellor, said recently the European allies should take a common stand on the U.S. space defence plan. That is not expected to happen at Luxembourg, however.

S. African radio warns of more mass unrest

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — South Africa can expect repeated attempts to foment unrest because current political reforms remove the basis for revolutionaries to bid for popular support, state-controlled Radio South Africa said Monday.

In a daily commentary which reflects government thinking, the radio said some of the violence would be directed at the police and must be firmly handled.

The commentary follows international outrage last week after riot police gunned down at least 19 blacks near the white town of Uitenhage in Cape province.

Radio South Africa said the expected unrest should be dealt with in such a way that its instigators were denied the propaganda they hoped to make out of such confrontations.

South Africa last year introduced a new constitution sharing power with Indians and mixed-race coloureds, but excluding the nation's 73 per cent black majority.

Thousands of blacks Sunday attended funerals for victims of racial conflict in South Africa's eastern Cape and police said the services passed off without violence.

Police and military vehicles patrolled roads between black townships and Uitenhage where the shooting took place on Thursday as a crowd attempted to march to the town.

Black mourners travelling to the funerals Sunday were carried through Uitenhage in trucks and buses. Witnesses said that heavily-armed police lined the streets but made no effort to stop the convoys of vehicles.

Police barred reporters from the townships but said the funerals, for six blacks who had been killed before the Thursday shootings, took place without incident.

A police spokesman said no major violence had been reported since three people were killed on Saturday night when police fired on a crowd looting and burning a liquor store.

Americans want defence reduction, poll says

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two-thirds of Americans believe the United States should be prepared to make concessions at the Geneva arms talks, according to an American newsmagazine public opinion poll released Sunday.

The Random Poll by U.S. News and World Report of 1,542 people across the nation found that 68 per cent of those interviewed believe the United States should be willing to compromise with the Soviet Union at the nuclear arms negotiations.

The poll also found 33 per cent urging deeper military than domestic cuts, 42 per cent urging equal reductions, 11 per cent seeking deeper domestic cuts and nine per cent suggesting no reductions at all in federal spending.

President Ronald Reagan is seeking to increase military spending by \$30 billion for fiscal year 1986 above the rate of inflation, or a 5.9 per cent increase. He seeks domestic cuts of \$40 billion, and deeper percentage reductions in many programmes like aid to education.

Soviet party launches rare public opinion survey

MOSCOW (AP) — It's not exactly a Western-style computerised poll, but the Communist Party of Georgia is conducting a newspaper opinion survey of a type and on a scale rarely — if ever — seen in the Soviet Union.

The poll has a distinct Soviet style in its approach and the wording of its questions and multiple-choice answers, and it appears intended to boost the Georgian party's anti-corruption campaign.

The survey prepared by the party's centre for the study, moulding and forecasting of public opinion and published in Friday's editions of the party organ "Zarya Vostoka" (dawn of the east), which reached Moscow on Sunday.

Printed as a full-page insert, it's called "your opinion on the status of the struggle against tendencies



RIOT VICTIM: The body of a riot victim lies in a street of Port Elizabeth, South Africa, where it was hacked and burnt during disturbances in the black African township. The official from Kwabonobule was attacked and killed by a hostile crowd during the recent riots in Africa's Eastern Cape province (AP Wirephoto) see related story below.

'Chinese crew want to return home'

SEOUL (R) — The crew of a Chinese torpedo boat towed into a South Korean port with six dead colleagues on board have asked to be returned home, Information Minister Lee Won-Hong said Monday.

Negotiations are going on between Peking and Seoul for the release of the high-speed 40-ton vessel which was found drifting in South Korean waters on Thursday with 13 survivors, including two wounded men.

Diplomats here said a mutiny broke out aboard the hydrofoil in the Yellow Sea caused by some sailors who wished to seek political asylum in Taiwan. But Seoul said there were no political implications in the clash.

Mr. Lee said in a statement that the crew had asked to return home as soon as their vessel had been checked and the wounded men were ready to travel.

In the first full account of the incident, Mr. Lee said that the vessel's radio operator and navigator

bore grudges against their superiors.

Mr. Lee said that after being insulted on Thursday while the boat was on a training mission in international waters, the two seized automatic rifles and killed six of their superiors.

They later wounded two other who protested against the mutiny, Mr. Lee said.

Worrying about punishment for their actions, the two wrangled with the rest of the crew while the torpedo boat ran short of fuel and, after drifting for six hours, hailed a passing South Korean fishing boat.

Mr. Lee spoke of the survivors only as "these crewmen" and did not specifically say if the two were among those who had asked to be returned home. But a government spokesman said later he believed the request was made by all 13.

Mr. Lee said South Korea was treating the crew in accordance with international practices. Eleven of the Chinese are now

enjoying the comforts of a top tourist hotel in Kunsan, about 175 kilometres from Seoul, although they are under tight security and are not allowed to leave the building.

Journalists have not been allowed access to the crew. Taiwanese Ambassador Hsueh Yu-Chi visited the Foreign Ministry here Monday and expressed "deep concern" over the incident, embassy officials said.

The embassy said that its military attaché had sought, and been refused, permission to meet the crewmen.

In Taipei, Foreign Minister Chu Fu-Sung Monday summoned the South Korean ambassador and told him Taiwan hoped the Seoul government would respect human rights and the desire of any crew member to choose freedom.

Ministry sources said Mr. Chu had told Ambassador Kim Chong Kon that Taiwan would accept any member who sought political asylum here.

U.S. says Soviet diplomat's defection not linked with colleague's murder

NEW DELHI (R) — The U.S. embassy in New Delhi said Monday there was no link between the defection of Soviet diplomat Igor Gheja and the murder of one of his colleagues here last week.

An embassy spokesman confirmed that Gheja, 37, a third secretary in the Soviet mission's information section, had requested and been granted political asylum by the United States "at a point outside India."

Gheja was now safe and well in the United States, the spokesman said. "There is no connection between the defection and the unfortunate murder of a Soviet embassy official in Delhi," he added.

The spokesman was referring to Vladislav Khitrchenko, 48, who was shot dead in his car near the Soviet embassy and Mr. Khitrchenko's killers.

"The U.S. government deplores and condemns such acts of terrorism and it has no information concerning the perpetrators of the attack," he said.

Western diplomats told Reuters Monday that how and where Gheja defected was a closely guarded secret, adding that he did not approach the U.S. embassy in Delhi.

Gheja vanished after what police said was an early morning stroll in a Delhi park. His Soviet-built car was found nearby.

Soviet officials lodged a complaint of abduction while police launched a nationwide hunt for the missing diplomat and Mr. Khitrchenko's killers.

The Press Trust of India news agency said it was possible that Gheja had slipped across the border to Nepal and then flown to the United States.

An Indian government spokesman Sunday confirmed that Indian news agency reports of Gheja's defection were correct.

Diplomats who asked not to be named said that, under Indian law, embassies in Delhi were normally obliged to inform the authorities here if an individual wanted to defect on Indian territory.

Taiwan to indict three senior military officers

TAIPEI (R) — Three senior Taiwanese intelligence officers will be indicted next week for involvement in the murder of a Chinese-American writer in California, the Defence Ministry said Monday.

Ministry spokesman Major-General Chang Hui-Yuan told reporters that military prosecutors had decided the three, including military intelligence Bureau Chief Vice-Admiral Wang Hsi-Ling, had a case to answer including criminal involvement in the murder of Henry Liu.

He said the military was preparing an indictment this week but did not disclose the exact charges.

Mr. Wang, his deputy Major-General Hu Yi-Min and Colonel Chen Fu-Men, a deputy department head in the bureau, would

face a military tribunal of five judges advocates, he said.

Two gang leaders, Chen Chi-Li and Wu Tun, are on trial for the murder of Mr. Liu, a stern critic of Taiwan, in Daly City near San Francisco in October. A third defendant, Tung Kuei-Sheng, has fled to the Philippines and is being tried in absentia.

Chen, 41, leader of the Bamboo Union Gang, told a Taipei court last week he was ordered by the intelligence chief to kill Mr. Liu who was described as a double agent working both for Peking and Taipei.

The Taipei district court last week adjourned the case until April 2 and court sources said several witnesses would be summoned to testify at Chen's request.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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PLAY FOR THE BEST ODDS

East-West vulnerable. South deals.			
NORTH			
♠ A 10 4			
♥ A J 8 7 2			
♦ Void			
♣ K J 9 8 5			
WEST			
♠ 7 6 3			
♥ 4			
♦ A Q 10 8 0 4			
♣ Q 10 8			
EAST			
♠ K 8 5 2			
♥ K 5 5			
♦ K J 9 5 3 2			
♣ 7			
SOUTH			
♠ Q J 3			
♥ K Q 10 9 3			
♦ 7			
♣ A 4 3 2			
The bidding:			
South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	6 ♠	Pass
Opening lead: Ace of ♠.			

It is all very well to know the best way to play a particular suit combination. Under you consider the hand as a whole, however, you may be applying your knowledge at an inappropriate time. Where did South go wrong on this hand?

As soon as North learned about his partner's club support, he set

out for slam. He decided against a grand slam when South could not show second-round spade control. Declarer ruffed the opening lead and drew trumps in two rounds. With nine clubs in the combined hands, declarer knew that there was a 52 per cent chance of dropping the queen. He cashed the ace-king but the lady failed to appear.

Eventually declarer fell back on the spade finesse. Unfortunately that failed, and the contract was down one.

Declarer's mistake was that he took the wrong finesse — he should have taken the club finesse! True, the chances of the drop in clubs were better than the finesse, but the contract was assured even if, after West followed to the second club, the finesse of the jack of clubs lost to the queen.

East would now be out of clubs, and he would have to return either a diamond or a spade. A spade would give declarer a free finesse; a diamond would permit him to ruff in dummy and discard a spade from his hand. In either case, the table's fifth club would take care of declarer's remaining spade loser, and the slam would be home.

COLUMN

Zoo animals killed in rampage

ADELAIDE, Australia (R) — Vandals using knives and iron bars slaughtered 64 animals in an overnight rampage through an Adelaide zoo. Kangaroos, guinea pigs, sheep, rabbits, an antelope, a llama, an alligator and three flightless South American rheas birds were among the animals which had throats cut or were stabbed and bashed to death, zoo director Robert Baker said. Most of the dead animals were in the children's zoo and extremely tame, Baker said.

Blind man leads guide dog

BAY CITY, Michigan (AP) — A state judge who is legally blind has taken to leading his guide dog, Major, since the Siberian husky suddenly lost his sight. "I know it looks a little ridiculous, but I want to keep his spirits up," said Judge Craig D. Alston, 30, who suffers from retinitis pigmentosa. The genetic eye disorder struck when he was 7 and left him with limited vision. Major, who is 10, probably is suffering from optical neuritis, which causes a loss of function of the optic nerve, according to veterinarians at Michigan State University.

Thieves break into house, despite police guard

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) — Not even a round-the-clock police guard could keep thieves from breaking into the house of a former provincial leader who is being detained at home, police sources said Monday. The thieves broke in and escaped with cash and valuables worth about 50,000 rupees (\$3,000), the sources said. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, a leader of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) who was Sind province chief minister when the PPP was Pakistan's ruling party in the 1970s, has been detained at his house since Feb. 18 by the current government. His house, in an expensive Karachi suburb, has been declared a "sub-jail." Police said the caretaker of Jatoi's household lodged a complaint declaring that burglars broke into the house Saturday night and took away a video recorder, tape recorders and other valuables along with some cash.

Wedding for 10 riot victims held in India

NEW DELHI (AP) — A Hindu leader, saying he was doing "the job of a father," performed marriages Sunday for 10 women whose husbands or families were killed in anti-Sikh riots following the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Bajrang Singh, who runs a relief camp for Sikh victims at his home in crowded Old Delhi, helped 10 women, mostly riot widows, "begin a new life" by finding suitable matches and homes. More than 300 people, including some parliamentarians, attended the mass weddings performed according to Sikh religious rites at Singh's home with traditional wedding music and a feast of Indian food. "I feel this is the most important day in my life. We have taken all the pains to find these girls good husbands," Singh said, adding that his extended family bore all the expenses of the ceremony.

Gurkha captain leaves British army

LONDON (AP) — The Victoria Cross, Britain's highest award for courage, will be missing from the armed forces for the first time in 129 years Monday night after Gurkha Capt. Ram Bahadur Limbu retires. He is the last surviving holder of the crimson-ribboned medal, inscribed "for valour." Limbu's regiment, the 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles, was saying goodbye to the 45-year-old officer from Nepal with a curry lunch at his barracks near Aldershot. Ending 28 years' service, the captain was then flying home via Hong Kong to start a new life as a farmer and trek tour guide in the mountains around his home in Damak village, east Nepal. The Nepalese Gurkhas have been enlisting in the British army for 170 years. The Nepalese hill tribesmen and the British discovered each other while fighting on opposite sides in northern India in 1815. There were 200,000 Gurkhas in the British army in the two World Wars and 44,000 of them were killed or wounded.

British 'superspy' surfaces to clear chief's name

MELBOURNE (R) — A major British wartime spy who passed on secrets from within Germany has spoken out for the first time to clear the name of the intelligence chief who recruited him, the Age newspaper reported Monday.

The spy, identified as Charles Evans, 67, a former businessman now living in Australia, has told of his undisclosed exploits at the top of German military intelligence in World War II, the newspaper said.

His exclusive report on Mr. Evans, who said he was awarded the Iron Cross, First Class, by the Germans while working as a British spy, followed his discovery by military historian Nigel West.

Mr. Evans had written to Mr. West anonymously raising objections to part of his history of the British Secret Intelligence Service, "MI6 1909-1945."

The letter flatly contradicted Mr. West's view that MI6 was ill-prepared for war with Germany and insisted that its chief, Admiral Sir Hugh Sinclair, had always been

convinced that war with Hitler was inevitable.

Mr. West wrote that MI6 had been unable to run any agents inside Hitler's Germany after the collapse of France.

The historian was able to trace Mr. Evans after some detective work to a Melbourne address and he talked after the establishment of a few "ground-rules," Mr. West said in an article for the paper.

The former agent, who lives alone after separating from his wife 14 years ago, also agreed to an interview with the Age at his Melbourne flat.

Mr. West said this was the first case of a British spy planted in pre-war Germany surfacing and telling his story.

Mr. Evans said he passed on a mass of information to the allies under cover as a German educated at an exclusive German school and with a doctor's degree from Heidelberg University.

He told of Hitler's plan to occu-

py the Channel Islands, gave the date of the German invasion of the Soviet Union, and passed on information about the German coding device known as Enigma, the Age said.

The paper also quoted Mr. Evans as saying he found out about the V-1 flying bombs that wreaked havoc in London, about the Germans' Tiger tank and about a spy known as Cicero who was stealing secrets from the British embassy in Turkey.

Mr. Evans said, however, that much of his information may have been ignored by the allies because it was uncorroborated.

He made clear that his motive in speaking was to clear the name of Adm. Sinclair, who was a friend of his father's and who had approached him in 1933 when he was 15 with the prospect of becoming a long-term "mole."

"My only purpose in contacting Nigel West was to get a retraction for Adm. Sinclair, who was an old